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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you already read the newly enacted labor reform law?

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INSIDE

Stocks Recover

After five straight days of pullbacks, Wall Street analysts saw positive signs in Wednesday's trading.

BUSINESS...Page 21

Border Crossing

Tens of thousands of Gazans flooded into Egypt on Wednesday through a border fence blown up by militants.

WORLD...Page 25

'It' Girl

She enters the room in a knit that fits, the kind of dress with a place for everything.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 30

Friends of WNNK disappointed with govt officials. **PAGE 2**

Businessman arrested for marriage scam. **PAGE 3**

No contracts, still at work

DEFENSE TASK FORCE JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Participants from different government agencies listen to speakers during the Joint Task Force Homeland Defense conference at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio yesterday.

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Some government employees are now working without valid contracts.

About 157 Saipan employees affected by the Dec. 22, 2007 furlough continue to work, despite having expired contracts.

One employee at the Governor's Office, who asked not

See NO CONTRACTS on Page 4

4 garment firms settle EEOC suit

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced yesterday the final settlement of its pregnancy discrimination lawsuit against Rifu Apparel Corp, Kyungseung (Saipan) Inc., Poong In (Saipan) Inc., and L&S Apparel Corp.

The EEOC's case alleged

See 4 GARMENT on Page 4

Hiring ban on unskilled foreign workers remains

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The ban on the hiring of foreign workers from off-island will remain in place for at least five more months.

An emergency regulation adopted by the Department of Labor last month prohibits any new unskilled workers from entering the Commonwealth until the workers already on island find employment or depart.

Under the regulation, the director of Labor should hold any pending application for an off-island hire, and should not approve any application "unless in the best interests of the Commonwealth" for the hiring in an unskilled position of a nonresident worker who is coming from outside the CNMI.

The regulation states the moratorium will remain in place until June 30, 2008. At that time,

See HIRING on Page 4

Army wants to cut war tours to 12 months

AP

U.S. Army soldiers from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment set out to search Arab Jabour during Operation Coliseum south of Baghdad, Iraq on Monday, Jan. 21, 2008.

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Soldiers' battlefield tours would be cut from 15 months to 12 months beginning Aug. 1, under a proposal being considered by the Army as part of an effort to reduce the stress on a force battered by

See ARMY on Page 4

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Local

Friends of WNNK disappointed with govt officials

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The "Friends of the Wakai Nekko No Kai" expressed disappointment with government officials who failed to show up in Wednesday's Friendship Golf Tournament.

According to Mayor's Office public information officer Tony Benavente, "neither the governor nor the lieutenant governor showed up. None of the Cabinet members as well."

"Many of their constituents were recipients of the WNNK in the past. Its really disappointing that none of them showed support or interest," said Benavente.

He added that the only government official who showed up yesterday was House Speaker Arnold Palacios.

"We are all very thankful that he took the time to support the cause," said Benavente.

The "Friends of WNNK" said that two other legislators donated cash for the Saipan Offers Support t-shirts.

The Friends of WNNK managed to sell $350 worth of the SOS t-shirts at Wednesday's event.

The tournament was meant to raise funds to help pay off the financial predicament of Hideo Kato, owner and president of the WNNK, otherwise known as the "Ocean University."

Benavente said the "Friends of WNNK" are grateful to the 58 people who showed up in Wednesday's event.

"We are also very thankful to all those who have donated and offered in-kind donations," said Benavente.

Also, "big thanks to Dr. Carmen Fernandez and the NMC [Northern Marians College] students for their huge help at the tournament," Benavente said.

Marianas Visitors Authority's JM Guerrero said that Kato has officially announced that the ocean university's 40th anniversary trip to the CNMI will not be possible this year as Kato had to repay the mortgage on the Nekko House in Tokyo, Japan.

His Japanese friends helped him tremendously, according to Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela in an early interview, but it was not enough to close the gap worth over $100,000.

The ocean university has been visiting Saipan the past 39 years.

"It has benefited a number of CNMI students in the past and had brought in more than 16,000 Japanese visitors to the CNMI and Guam," Tudela said.

Tudela was not able to make it to Wednesday's tournament as he was off-island.

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Bomb scare at Judiciary

With two fighter jets hovering above Susupe, court personnel and clients evacuated the Judicial Complex yesterday morning due to a bomb threat.

Saipan Tribune learned that an employee of the Superior Court received a call from a male person at 8:25am who claimed that "there's a bomb in the building."

The employee immediately informed the Court Marshal about the threat. The marshals notified all the staff members of the Supreme Court, Superior Court, Law Revision Commission, Office of the Adult Probation, the CNMI Bar Association, and some clients to evacuate the building.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja led the courts' employees to the old court building area, which has been designated a "safe zone." Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan was also seen in the safe zone.

In less than five minutes, bomb experts from the Department of Public Safety arrived and scoured the building. Three Customs' K-9 sniffing dogs were also brought into the building.

Two jet fighters were observed flying over Susupe as this was happening.

As no bomb was found, the bomb experts asked the courts' personnel and clients to go back insice at 9:50am.

When the bomb threat was received, only few clients were inside the building as the hearings were scheduled to start at 9am.

The hearings resumed when the building was cleared of any threats.

A court marshal said the presence of the jet fighters was not related to the bomb scare. The two Guam-based jet fighters have been reportedly conducting training the past two days. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Businessman arrested for marriage scam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Attorney General's Investigative Unit has arrested a Bangladeshi businessman who was allegedly involved in a fake marriage to obtain an immediate relative immigration status.

Mohammad Wahiduzzaman, 37, was about to leave Saipan at the Saipan International Airport Wednesday at 1:40pm when AGIU agents arrested him.

Wahiduzzaman was held for marriage fraud.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo ordered that the bail should remain at $20,000 cash bail as recommended by assistant attorney general Kevin Lynch.

Govendo granted defense attorney Joey San Nicolas' request to conduct a bail modification for today, Friday, at 3:30pm.

Preliminary hearing was set for Jan. 31 at 9am.

The defendant was seen crying when attorney San Nicolas approached the businessman in the courtroom shortly before the hearing.

AGIU's Immigration investigator Erwin Flores stated in his report that on Jan. 19, 2008, Shanna Marie Kaipat informed him that she entered into a "fixed marriage" with Wahiduzzaman.

Kaipat apparently stated that Wahiduzzaman told her he would pay her $10,000 in exchange for "fixed marriage."

Kaipat and Wahiduzzaman were married on Dec. 22, 2006, at the Mayor's Office on Saipan.

Flores said Kaipat claimed that the defendant paid her $4,000 as partial payment, but they lived in separate residences since their marriage.

After being married, Kaipat said Wahiduzzaman submitted an application for his immediate relative entry permit to the Division of Immigration on Dec. 27, 2006.

Flores said that Kaipat, however, departed from the CNMI on Aug. 9, 2007, and has not returned.

Flores said he was able to obtain a copy of the marriage record.

A Bangladeshi man told Saipan Tribune after the hearing that Wahiduzzaman has a trading business and was on his way to Japan when he was arrested.

The U.S. government recently indicted another Bangladeshi, Mohamad Ruhul Ami, for allegedly engaging in a fake marriage to get an IR status. The woman, Rose Mayo, Reyes, was also charged.

Another shot at Garapan's parking meters

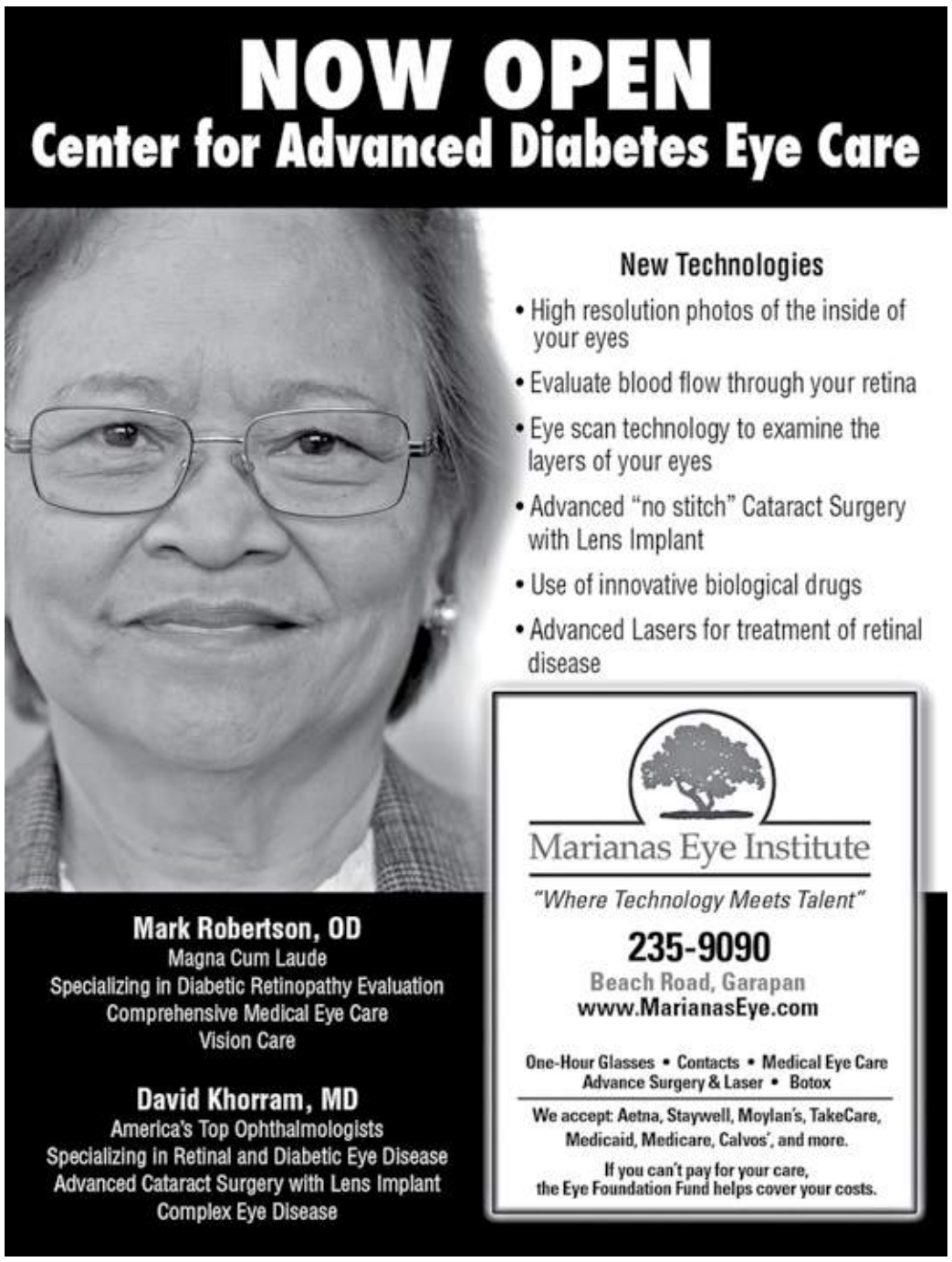
A Saipan lawmaker is giving parking meters another try.

Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb has reintroduced a bill allowing the Department of Public Works to start operating the approximately 60 parking meters installed along Beach Road and Garapan.

The parking meters have been idle since early 2006 due to the lack of regulations to operate them.

Tebuteb's bill allows DPW to promulgate regulations setting parking meter fees. It also proposes to allow the legislative delegations to appropriate the collected fees.

First introduced in 2006, the proposed legislation passed the 15th House of Representatives in June last year. However, the bill died in the Senate. There are 27 parking meters installed along Hotel Street and Coral Avenue, and 30 others along Beach Road in Garapan. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***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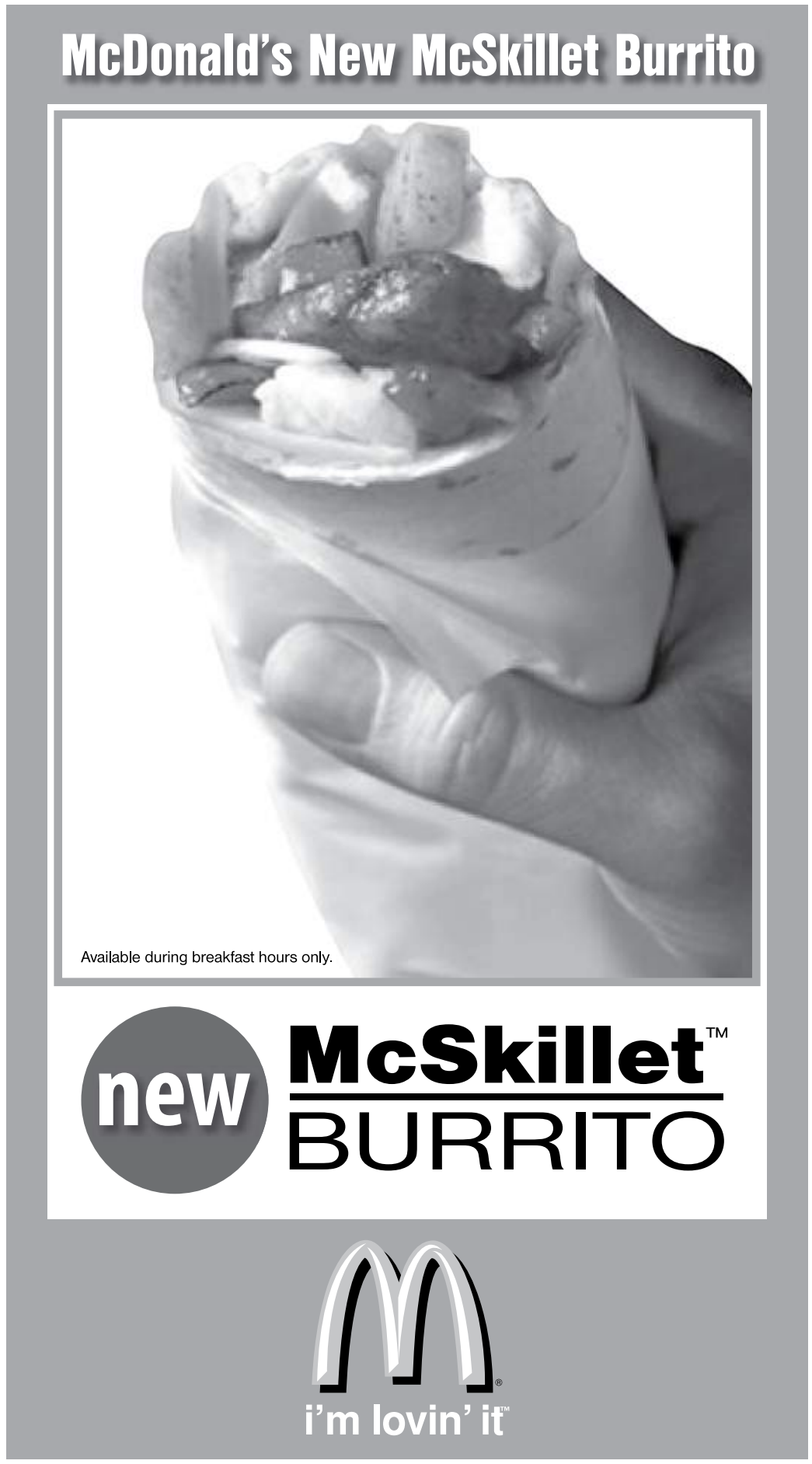

Pride Campaign focuses on coral reefs

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Local environment agencies are banding together to bring to the islands the Pride Campaign, a year-long effort to raise awareness of the CNMI's coral reefs and help people change their behavior to preserve this natural resource.

In a workshop held yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club, over 20 interested members of the community showed up to discuss the factors that affect the islands' coral reefs.

The event, hosted by the Coastal Resources Management, members of the Coral Reef Initiative, and Rare, an international conservation organization, was held at the PIC.

According to Pride Campaign manager and CRM Outreach and Education Coordinator Brooke Nevitt, the CNMI's Pride Campaign Campaign will focus on the CNMI's coral reefs and is funded through the Coral Reef Initiative."

Nevitt pointed out that coral reefs are threatened everyday by human impacts such as over-fishing, damage from sewage, chemical spills, sedimentation, boat groundings and anchor damage, improper watershed development and global climate change.

She said the Pride Campaign has proven successful in more than 30 countries.

"It has built momentum for conservation by inspiring enthusiasm and commitment within individuals and local communities living in the earth's most ecologically valuable regions such as the CNMI," Nevitt said.

Nevitt said she will work closely with the community to develop the details of the CNMI program.

"We are focusing on our coral reefs. In the meeting we talked about some of the factors that are affecting our reefs. We plan to meet with members of the community such as local fisherman to discuss about what they think and what they see in our coral reefs," said Nevitt.

She said there will be stakeholders' meetings, focus groups, and a questionnaire survey to gather input and determine priorities.

"This planning process will culminate in the creation of a detailed project plan for a year-long campaign. The success of the campaign will depend on involvement of everyone including you, teachers, students business leaders, and elected officials," Nevitt said.

There are similar campaigns currently ongoing in the Marshall Islands, Kosrae (FSM), Palau and Guam.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Coral Reef and the CNMI is joining in the celebration with the signing of a proclamation declaring 2008 as the CNMI Year of the Reef.

The IYCR 2008 is a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs and the threats to their sustainability. It is also intended to motivate people to take action and protect coral reefs.

To get involved with the Pride Campaign, or for more information, call Nevitt at Coastal Resources Management, 664-8320 or pridecnmi@gmail.com. Visit the Rare website at http://www.rareconservation.org/.

Labor asked to check papers to detect sponsorship

Department of Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody has asked the Labor Division to carefully scrutinize an employer's renewal application to hire a farmer to ensure that it is a legitimate employment rather than a "sponsorship."

Cody, however, ordered the employer, Cecilia Rosario, to pay a $220 sanction for failing to file in a timely manner the renewal application for Roy D. Alcantara.

Given that more than a year has passed since the initial application was filed, Cody said the parties are ordered to file an updated application.

The hearing officer ordered Alcantara to cease working until the sanction has been paid and an updated application has been filed.

Cody noted that during the hearing, Rosario seemed to have difficulty providing specific testimony regarding the type of farming performed by Alcantara.

According to Labor records, Alcantara worked as a farmer for Rosario under a nonresident work permit that expired on Dec. 23, 2006.

Rosario filed a renewal application for Alcantara on Jan. 29, 2007—which is 37 days late.

On July 31, 2007, Labor denied the renewal application on the grounds that it was untimely filed.

Rosario and Alcantara appealed.

At the hearing, Rosario testified that she missed the renewal deadline because she was busy attending to a back illness and making numerous hospital visits during late December 2006 and early January 2007.

Rosario admitted she was aware that the permit had expired on Dec. 23, 2006. She acknowledged that her husband could have brought in the application to Labor for filing.

In his order, Cody said renewal applications are required to be filed on or before the last day of the existing permit.

Cody said Labor regulations, however, allow an employer to file a renewal application of up to 30 days late, provided that the employer pays a late fee of $5 per day.

"Applications filed more than 30 days late are denied, but the parties may appeal the denial to the Administrative Hearing Office, as was done in this case," he said.

In this case, Cody said, the employer was having health problems but was aware of the renewal deadline and could have arranged for her husband to file the required papers.

At the hearing, Cody said, Rosario accepted responsibility for the late filing and the parties asked to be allowed to continue this employment relationship. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ARMY

From Page 1

more than six years at war.

The proposal, recommended by U.S. Army Forces Command, is being reviewed by senior Army and Pentagon leaders, and would be contingent on the changing needs for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Our top priority is going to be meeting the combatant commanders' requirements, so there may be no decision until we get more clarity on that," Army Col. Edward Gibbons, chief of the command's plans division, said Wednesday. He said the goal was to meet those demands while still reducing soldiers' deployments and increasing their time at home between tours.

■■■

As of Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008, at least 3,931 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes eight military civilians. At least 3,197 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is two higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Wednesday at 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 174 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.

■■■

Gen. George Casey, chief of staff of the Army, has been pushing to move back to one-year deployments, citing the heavy burden that the 15-month stays put on troops and their families. Just last week he hinted the shorter tours could begin this summer.

But defense officials have been reluctant to talk much about the shift because it will depend heavily on what Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, recommends when he gives his assessment of the war to Congress in March or April.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates ordered the move to 15-month deployments about a year ago, as the Pentagon struggled to fight wars on two fronts.

Under the new proposal, any Army brigade that deploys to Iraq or Afghanistan on or after Aug. 1 would spend 12 months on the battlefront, Gibbons said. Four of the brigades currently deployed would serve 12-month tours, six would have tours of 13 to 14 months, and five would stay for the full 15 months.

Over time, the shift to yearlong deployments would give soldiers more time at home—ranging from at least a year to as much as 15 months. Currently units are deploying for 15 months and getting about 12 months at home.

The proposal, first reported by Army Times, has been recommended to senior military leaders in the Pentagon. One Pentagon official said Wednesday that the proposal is in keeping with the vision that Casey has laid out to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because discussions on the proposal are still preliminary, said the move by this summer to 12-month tours is what the military wants and needs to be doing.

There are 158,000 U.S. troops in Iraq—including 17 Army combat brigades and two Marine regimental combat teams. There are about 28,000 U.S. forces in Afghanistan, including two combat brigades. A brigade is roughly 3,500 troops.

Gibbons said the new proposal assumes that commanders will maintain 15 combat brigades in Iraq and two in Afghanistan.

But, he noted, "You're just one request for forces away from all that math changing."

The proposal does not appear to affect the five additional brigades sent to Iraq early last year as part of the military buildup ordered by President Bush.

4 GARMENT

From Page 1

that Rifu Apparel and three affiliated manufacturers violated federal law by refusing to renew the employment contracts of female garment workers because of their pregnancies. Pregnancy discrimination violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Pregnancy Discrimination Act.

The court-approved consent decrees order the four manufacturers to pay a total of $120,000 to seven women claimants. Besides the monetary relief, the four-year decrees require policy revisions, training of supervisors, and monitoring by the EEOC.

Rifu Apparel and Kyungseung continue to operate on Saipan. Poong In has announced its closure on Jan. 28, 2008, while L&S Apparel had already closed by end of 2007.

"Whether on the mainland or on an island, pregnancy discrimination strikes families when they are at their most vulnerable," said Anna Y. Park, regional attorney for the EEOC's Los Angeles District Office, which oversees the Northern Marianas. "The EEOC will continue to vigorously enforce the laws that protect women from this kind of discrimination."

Timothy Riera, director of the EEOC's Local Office in Honolulu, said, "The EEOC continues to receive cases alleging pregnancy discrimination against employers in the CNMI. It's important that employers are proactive in ensuring that pregnant employees are not targeted for non-renewal, discharge or other forms of discrimination."

The EEOC enforces federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of sex, gender or pregnancy.

Further information about the EEOC is available on the agency's web site at www.eeoc.gov, or by calling the Honolulu Local Office at (808) 541-3120. ***(EEOC)***

HIRING

From Page 1

the ban will be reviewed with respect to any continuation.

Fees paid for off-island hiring applications that are pending on Dec. 30, 2007 are transferable for six months if the pended application is withdrawn by the employer.

The Labor Department said the hiring ban was necessary due to the closure of several garment factories over the past six months and the possibility of additional closures.

"These closures have created an emergency for the Commonwealth's economy and require an immediate, temporary change in the Alien Labor Rules and Regulations," the department added.

The regulation was adopted on emergency basis, and took effect on Dec. 30, 2007. Emergency regulations are effective for 120 days only.

To keep the regulation in effect beyond that deadline, the Labor Department has begun the process for permanent adoption. Public comments are now being sought on the regulation.

NO CONTRACTS

From Page 1

to be named, said he has not been informed of any additional extension to his contract. He has not been instructed to stop reporting for work either.

"I thought I'd just keep coming to work every morning. Anyway, I am still getting paid," he said.

He is one of the 397 non-civil service employees that were to be laid off effective Dec. 22, 2007. But like all other Saipan employees, he was allowed to stay for another 30 days, based on a promise by Saipan lawmakers to provide funds for the salaries of their affected constituents.

The 30-day extension expired on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008. To date, the status of the employees hangs on an assurance from a Cabinet member that the workers will have jobs for at least 30 more days.

Esther Fleming, the governor's special assistant for administration and for management and budget, "takes full responsibility" for affected employees within the Governor's Office, according to press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

"Mrs. Fleming is confident that there's funds to continue paying the employees for another 30 days at least. She is identifying resources and working with the Department of Finance to resolve this issue," Reyes added.

Funding remains an issue, even though the 15th Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation did pass a law appropriating $1.2 million for the Saipan workers. The administration says it needs $2.5 million to keep all 157 Saipan employees on the payroll until the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2008.

On Tuesday, Rep. Heinz Hofschneider brought up another possible legal barrier to using the $1.2 million. He said the plan may be illegal, as the government is operating on a continuing resolution. The $1.2 million represents resources outside of the fiscal year 2007 budget, which the government is following in the absence of an updated appropriation act.

The House legal counsel has been instructed to study the legal question.

Meanwhile, Reyes said Hofschneider and the rest of the Legislature can do something to do away with the legal problem. "Add the $1.2 million to the governor's budget and pass it as soon as possible," he suggested.

Only the Saipan workers were extended for 30 days. Some 240 other non-civil service employees on Tinian and Rota have already been laid off effective Dec. 22, 2007 due to the lack of funding to keep them on the payroll.

Local shrimp grower eyes Japan market

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan SyAqua Aquaculture one day hopes to sell fresh chilled shrimps to one of the largest importer of seafoods in the world, Japan.

According to the China Town farm's operations manager Rommel G. Catalma, Saipan SyAqua is actually thinking of selling its products to the region.

"We're looking at selling chilled shrimp in Japan, Korea, Guam, and even Hawaii. Japan is the second biggest importer of shrimp in the world and it's only three hours away," he said in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday.

According to www.infofish.org, overall imports of shrimp to Japan amounted to $2.49 billion in 2007. In addition, smaller size shrimp, the cheaper farmed *vannamei*, has been the preferred alternative to the bigger size but more expensive tiger prawn, particularly in the retail sector. Subsequently, supermarket demand for *vannamei* has increased for spring sales (April-May), according to www.infofish.org.

Saipan SyAqua raises the Pacific white shrimp specie, with the scientific name *Pennaes vannamei*.

For its parent shrimps, or broodstock, Catalma envisions selling them to shrimp growers in Southeast Asia, namely Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, and even China.

He said the jury is definitely out on Saipan SyAqua as the market is looking closely at its recent export to one of Indonesia's biggest shrimp hatcheries.

"We're still negotiating [with other broodstock buyers]. We're quite new in the market so we really need to show what we are capable of. Buyers are actually watching our recent shipment to Indonesia. Our expansion plans are really pinned on the success of that sale," said Catalma.

He said it will take awhile to find out the viability of the broodstock they imported to Indonesia, as the hatchery is still conditioning the broodstock.

Saipan SyAqua uses a three-phase system to grow its shrimps. In one raceway, the farm has three tanks—nursery, intermediate, and final tanks. At any given time, it has three cultures going on so that in a year, one raceway can harvest at least five times. At any given time, the farm has 500,00 shrimps.

Catalma said the company plans to increase that by threefold in a couple of years to 1.5 million shrimps.

Currently, production is around 3,000-4,000 lbs a month and increasing. Catalma said they hope to double that production in a year's time.

Catalma in an earlier interview said their shrimp farm has undergone major changes in terms of structures and procedures. He said their direction is to adopt Best Aquaculture Practices, or BAP, as their standard.

Last year, the company also began selling their shrimp at Sabalu Market, which has been such a huge success that their supplies usually run out before 12noon.

Catalma said Saipan SyAqua employs two aquaculturists, a chemist, a sales and delivery person, and two aquaculture aides. The company also has the support of the entire sales force of Saipan Ice and Water Company and all of its support services for its electrical and mechanical needs.

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Residents still forced to 'tolerate' animal abuse

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For years, the CNMI has been forced to tolerate the many instances of animal abuses they witness as there is no law protecting animals.

The Jin Joo Restaurant dog incident and the recent dog-shooting incident has prompted the attention of concerned citizens, who could not help but wonder why animal abuse should be tolerated at all for so many years.

According to Pet Assistance and Welfare Services president Katie Busenkell, "Saipan is the only territory that doesn't have a law protecting animals from abuse or neglect."

A male resident reported that he has witnessed some Asian men on the third floor of the Shakier II building in Chalan Kanoa beating dogs to death and disposing of the bones in the alley.

"More than a year ago I saw two [men] killing a dog with 2x4 wood. About since then, I would smell some bad odor everyday 'til now. I always saw the [men] throwing large trash bags from the roof of Shakier Bldg II. My wife said that she even saw cats," he said.

Another male witness said he had heard the Asian residents on the third floor beating dogs to death and he can often smell the dogs being cooked.

He said he had reported the incident to DPS on at least one occasion, but that they had not taken action.

A female local resident vented her frustration by saying "Why hasn't the Legislature passed a law expressly making it illegal to steal a dog and kill it inhumanely? Where do these dogs come from that are killed so brutally for meat? If these dogs are stolen, why doesn't DPS treat dog theft like the theft of property, like a television?"

The Animal Protection Act of 2007 was introduced in the last Legislature by Rep. Stanley Torres and was also championed by former representative Cinta Kaipat.

The bill managed to reach the Senate where several changes were made and then it was sent back for further review.

The bill, according to Legislative Bureau's Evelyn Fleming,, is "now dead and would have to be reintroduced again."

Rep. Tina Sablan said she has just begun to look into the Animal Protection Act issue and that she supports the House version of the bill.

"It's a reasonable, straightforward, and humane bill. I would gladly reintroduce or cosponsor it, and would certainly support it if any of my colleagues reintroduced it first," she said.

Sablan said a similar bill is currently sitting in the health, education, and welfare committee chaired by Rep. Ralph Torres.

Busenkell said, "The reports of pet-theft and rampant animal abuse that is tolerated in Saipan is appalling. It is absolutely disgraceful that on American soil, it is legal to beat and or torture an animal to death."

She added that "PAWS is asking people to stand up against such blatant disregard for property and life. Write your legislators and urge them to pass the PAWS Animal Protection Act. It is the foundation to some much needed change in the way animals are treated in Saipan."

620 alcohol licenses issued in 2007

The Department of Commerce issued more than 600 alcohol licenses in calendar year 2007, according to acting secretary Michael Ada.

He said the department's Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division issued a total of 625 alcohol licenses, which included retailers, wholesalers, and establishment licenses (bars, restaurants, etc.)

Ada added that ABTC also issued 317 tobacco licenses, which included nine wholesale licenses and 308 retail licenses. In the FY 2007, ABTC cited four violations, which included three tobacco violations for not having the products in secure casings and one liquor violation for operating after hours.

The acting secretary said the department's enforcement efforts last year were hampered by personnel restraints.

However, he said Commerce is responding to this shortfall by utilizing personnel throughout the different divisions within the department to assist in the enforcement of the ABTC laws and regulations. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Chamber preps for Corporate Challenge

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is now readying itself for the 2008 edition of its Corporate Challenge. This year, the intercompany competitive event is called "Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge."

"This year's theme celebrates the ethnic diversity of our community and will be a fun-filled opportunity for you, your colleagues, and employees to take a shot at besting 19 other teams and claiming the coveted First Place trophy," said Chamber executive director Kyle Calabrese.

Each team must be composed of five individuals, at least one of whom must be female. The event will be held at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Participation is limited to the first 20 teams to register. All proceeds will benefit the Chamber's Educational Scholarship Fund.

The Events Committee will discuss all of the particulars in greater detail with Team Captains. There will be three meetings for all Team Captains at the Chamber office on:

- Tuesday, Jan. 29, 3pm
- Tuesday, Feb. 12, 3pm
- Friday, Feb. 22, 3pm

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DPL pressed on Tinian homesteads, leaseback

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider is pressing the Department of Public Lands on the issues of homesteads and the leaseback of military lands on Tinian.

The senator yesterday asked for a meeting with DPL Secretary John Del Rosario. He said he wanted to gain a better understanding of the status of the Tinian and Rota village and agriculture homestead program, as well as a proposal to construct condominium units for Saipan homesteads.

Hofschneider expressed belief that there is sufficient land on Tinian and Rota to accommodate the number of homestead applicants on file at Public Lands.

"Our people have been waiting a long time for the issuance of new homesteads. Unfortunately, nothing has been moving. I would like to meet with Secretary Rosario to understand why Tinian and Rota homestead programs are delayed," he said.

The floor leader is also the chairman of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development, and Programs, which oversees land management matters.

Another issue that Hofschneider wants to discuss with Del Rosario is the military leaseback. He reported that there are surveys that must be completed before the military can lease back lands to the CNMI government.

"Tinian needs to move forward with the leaseback of the lands as it directly impacts Tinian's economic development. We need to relocate our landfill to the leaseback area," he said.

The Federal Aviation Administration will not approve direct international flights because the landfill is currently too close to the airport runways. Moreover, the landfill is sitting on the proposed location for a casino investor's resort project.

A provision in the CNMI's Covenant with the United States allowed the U.S. military to lease 17,799 acres of land and waters on Tinian, 177 acres in Tanapag Harbor on Saipan, and the entire Farallon de Mendinilla, which has an approximate area of 206 acres.

The federal government paid a total of $19.52 million for a 50-year lease of the CNMI public lands. The lease will be effective until 2028.

In 1994, the Commonwealth and the U.S. Department of Defense signed a leaseback agreement so the Tinian government could use a portion of the public lands leased to the military. The leaseback agreement has since been amended. At present, only about 5,800 acres of land located in the middle of the Tinian remains covered by the agreement.

The Tinian legislative delegation wants to use the area for a landfill and a wastewater treatment site, or a commercial center. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Tinian waters obtain green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed water samples collected from Tinian's recreational beaches and storm drainages this week as part of routine sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. Therefore, DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag.

DEQ analyzed a total of 10 locations on Tinian this week. DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. ***(DEQ)***

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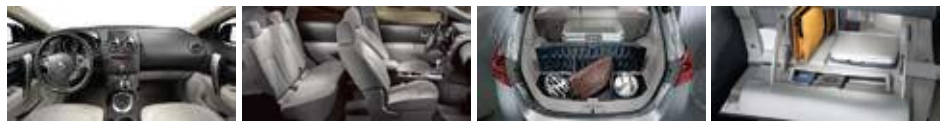

2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

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Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	$15,990.00	Fit	#7S025556	Mist	$14,995.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	$15,990.00	Fit Sport	#7S025501	Blue	$16,495.00
Sentra	#7L611483	Gray	$16,990.00	Civic DX	#7L061948	White	$16,995.00
Frontier XE	#7C409237	White	$23,390.00	CR-V LX	#7C073538	White	$22,995.00
Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	$26,990.00	Ridgeline	#7H505732	Silver	$32,990.00
Pathfinder	#6C674658	Granite	$28,990.00				
FORD	**STOCK #**	**COLOR**	**PRICE**	**KIA**	**STOCK #**	**COLOR**	**PRICE**
Ranger	#7PA31119	White	$16,990.00	Rio	#76292370	White	$12,995.00
Fusion	#7R127180	Pearl	$18,990.00	Rio	#76292373	Gray	$12,995.00
Escape	#7KB45887	Silver	$19,990.00	Sportage	#77353763	Silver	$17,695.00
F-150	#6NB05745	White	$21,990.00	Sorento	#65602982	Green	$18,995.00
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Lawyer questions lopsided sentences

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former local principal who admitted stealing $37,000 from a school gets five months in prison. But a Palauan man convicted of stealing a mere $24 worth of copper wire receives two years in prison.

Assistant Public Defender Malik K. Edwards raised these examples yesterday to illustrate the disproportionate sentences handed down by Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman.

"How is this fair or just? How can $37,000 be considered less serious than $24?" said Edwards in a motion for reconsideration of sentence he filed on behalf of defendant Simon Sebuu.

Sebuu was charged with burglary, theft, and criminal mischief for burglarizing the Little Angels Day Care in Koblerville. In August 2007 the jury acquitted the defendant of burglary but Wiseman found him guilty of theft and criminal mischief.

In his written order on Jan. 15, 2008, the judge said substantial jail penalties await copper wire thieves for engaging in "these reckless and senseless criminal activities."

Wiseman said it is his position that the deterrence, retribution and incapacitation factors of sentencing should be of the utmost consideration, with a strong message sent to potential copper wire thieves and other offenders that he will impose significant jail term if they commit those crimes.

Wiseman said that in Sebuu's case, the defendant stole copper wire from a daycare center, a place that provides services and facilities "for the precious children of this community."

Wiseman said when someone dismantles copper wire from a building, residence or a public way or utility, the magnitude of the repercussions from such act is widespread.

Wiseman sentenced the 23-year-old Sebuu to serve the maximum one-year prison term for the theft and the maximum one year for criminal mischief.

Sebuu, through Edwards, asked the court to reconsider the sentence.

In the motion, Edwards noted that Wiseman made a reference to "precious children of this community" as part of his reasoning for imposing a two-year jail term on Sebuu.

Two months ago, however, Wiseman sentenced former Kagman High School principal Doreen M. Tudela to just five months imprisonment even as she admitted to taking $37,000 from KHS. Tudela was facing a maximum of 10 years in prison.

"Are the 'precious children' from a private daycare more valuable to the community than the students at the public Kagman High School? Does the 'white-collar' nature of Ms. Tudela's crime entitle her to a more lenient sentence than Mr. Sebuu?" Edwards asked.

The assistant public defender asked whether the fact that Tudela is from a well respected local family and Mr. Sebuu is a poor Palauan kid from the Koblerville

See LAWYER on Page 9

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0202 Erika Tubera
0203 John Huevos
0204 Judy Anne Sanchez
0205 Lizelle Salanga
0206 Luouibelle Lavetoria
0207 Miguel Andrei Aninon
0208 Mozelle Campo
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JAN. 25, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Text Vote Launching and performances
from the 4 to years old category
FEB. 01, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Performances from the
9 to 13 years old category
FEB. 08, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Competition for the 4 to 9 years old category
Top 3 winners to be announced
FEB. 15, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Competition for the 9 to 13 years old category
Top 3 winners to be announced
FEB. 22, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
SHOWDOWN of the Top 3 winners
of the two categories
Text votes results back to zero
FEB. 29, 2008
FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
GRAND FINALS
Category 2: 10 to 13 years old
0209 Annabel Manzo
0210 Carmela Lumbad
0211 Darren John Cajipo
0212 Maria Christine Castro
0213 Mary Antoinette Alovera
0214 Matthew Lopez
0215 Mikee Campo
0216 Noemi Benig
0217 Rizza Butalon
0218 Shandel Denice Cayabyab
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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JANUARY 25, 2001

NMC unearths dangerous agri pests

The Northern Marianas College yesterday disclosed the discovery of two dangerous insects believed to have been smuggled into the Northern Marianas and have the potential to damage numerous agricultural products on the island. Tinian's IPM team coordinator Arnold Route and Natural Resources Conservation Specialist Sam Palacios discovered the destructive two-striped cucumber beetle on Tinian while Rota IPM coordinator Arnold Badilles discovered the two different species of sweet potato weevils.

Illegal recruitment victims arrested

Six Filipinos who paid a recruiter in Manila $1,000 to $1,500 each in exchange for good jobs on Saipan landed in jail after police and immigration authorities found them in possession of counterfeit dollar bills amounting to $5,000. The promised jobs turned out to be non-existent and the recruiter, illegal. Worst, the victims had been asked by their recruiter to carry dollar bills which they learned to be fake only after they were arrested by immigration and public safety officials yesterday.

EPA stays shipment of PCB-tainted materials

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will not be able to implement yet its earlier ruling that will allow the shipment of polychlorinated biphenyl-contaminated materials from the territories outside the federal customs zone back to the mainland US for disposal. According to Michelle Rogow, EPA on-scene coordinator, the EPA office in Washington informed them about the decision of Bush administration to put on hold all rules that were signed by the Clinton administration before Jan 20, 2001 or a few days before the change in government.

JANUARY 25, 2002

Plight of Verizon employees assured

Verizon officials in the CNMI assured legislators yesterday that the consortium that will take over the Commonwealth operations of the telecoms giant will look after the welfare of the firm's existing employees. In a courtesy call at the 13th House of Representatives, newly-appointed Verizon-Saipan acting General Manager Tony Mosley told Rep. Joseph Guerrero that protection has been put in place to ensure the continued employment of the firm's present staff, despite the sale of Verizon's telecom franchise in the CNMI.

BB backs economic development initiatives

Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente attended their first meeting since inauguration of the Strategic Economic Development Council. SEDC is a private-public sector group aimed at improving the CNMI economy. Also in attendance were 16 members of the Legislature, led by Senate President Paul A. Manglona and House Speaker Heinz Hofschneider.

Hazardous material handlers attend training

Businesses that are selling, shipping, and storing hazardous materials are facing hefty penalty-including possible closure orders-unless certified by accredited agencies as imposed under the amended version of the Hazardous Materials Regulations that takes effect on October 22, 2002. Guam-based Omega Safety Compliance Asia Pacific, a Multidisciplinary Certified and Accredited Regulatory Compliance Support Company authorized by the US Department of Defense, is currently conducting a 24-Hour Transportation of Hazardous Materials Certification Training Course at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

JANUARY 25, 2003

Development sessions or SuperBowl?

Public junior and high schools on Saipan and Tinian will have no classes on Monday, which is also the schedule for the 2003 SuperBowl. According to the Public School System calendar, junior and high schools on Saipan will hold their intercession and development sessions on Monday.

NMIRF: Suit will only stall issue

Levying a lawsuit against the central government for its failure to remit outstanding employer share contributions to the Retirement Fund, among others, is only going to stall the issue, Fund Chairman Joe Reyes told House members yesterday. The Trustee was responding to Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider's remark that, despite the government's $57-million arrears in employer contributions, the Fund has not filed any suit to set it on record.

LAWYER

From Page 8

housing project played a part in their different sentences.

"Justice demands an answer," Edwards said.

The lawyer also stated that at the sentencing hearing he pointed out that the admitted mastermind of this crime (minor A.A.) received a four-day sentence for his involvement in not only this theft, but also the theft of a car used in a poker robbery.

Edwards said he argued that Sebuu's sentence should be proportional to A.A.'s.

Edwards said that Wiseman, in rejecting his argument, made a point to say that A.A.'s sentence was handed down by another judge.

"This should not justify a disparity in sentences from a near minimum of four days to the maximum of two years. While A.A. was sentenced in a different courtroom, it was the same Superior Court, in the same jurisdiction, for the same crime," he said.

As for Sebuu's two pending cases, Edwards said it should be noted that the defendant has pleaded not guilty to both and his sentence in this case should not be based on charges for which he has yet to have his day in court.

Edwards also cited that each of the four cases Sebuu has (this case, his traffic conviction, and two pending cases) stem from events that occurred in April 2007 or soon after his father's passing.

"It appears that this is an instance of a young man acting out, in an admittedly inappropriate way, in response to the emotional trauma of his father's passing," he said.

Edwards said the court's concern with copper wire theft on Saipan is noted and that he agrees that the public is outraged.

"But who has to pay for this outrage? Not the admitted mastermind of this crime, A.A., who only received four days; not a career criminal or recidivist; not even one of the many defendants charged with multiple wire thefts," he said.

Instead, the defense lawyer said, Wiseman has chosen to make an example out of Sebuu, a young man with no prior contact with the criminal justice system, who was suffering from the recent passing of his father.

"If five months is just 'deterrence, retribution and incapacitation' for taking $37,000 from a public school, then it should more than enough for the taking of $24," he said.

Edwards requested the court to reduce Sebuu's sentence to concurrent four-month sentences with one year probation and referral to Community Guidance Center for counseling.

SAIPAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Honor Roll list for 2nd Quarter

6th Grade
"B" Honor
3.00-3.49
Eron Renol Constante
Kanani Lee
Sarah Kim
Enoch Jr. Lim
Valentine Paik

7th Grade
"A" Honor Roll
3.50-3.99
Ji Yong Park
Ji Min Ryu
Ha Bi Lee

"B" Honor
3.00-3.49
Yeo Jin Lee
Justin Poon
Keena Leon Guerrero
Francisco Camacho
Hee Jin Cho
Jane Rhee
Christian Tudela
Victoria Reyes
James Ko

8th Grade
"A" Honor Roll
3.50-3.99
Mindy Song
Jodel Fernandez
Momoko Nishikido
Almond Legaspi
Soo Jin Choi
Yuri Song
Jireh Huang
Jian Joyner

"B" Honor
3.00-3.49
Zachary Sablan
Hannah Choi
Kaithlin Hidalgo
Tae Ho Won
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FREE! $25.00 LOAD
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FREE! $10.00 LOAD
PREPAID w/ TDMA Trade
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Down arrows

As international stock markets tumbled Monday, the "R" word, recession, seemed to be giving way to the "P" word: Panic set in across the world as investors feared a U.S.-led global slowdown. It's not entirely clear why this happened now. Market players have known about the troubles in the U.S. subprime mortgage market, and its attendant credit crunch, for months. Though gloomy forecasts abound, most prognosticators have said that any U.S. downturn should be mild. And continued strong growth in Europe and Asia was supposed to offset a U.S. slump. Some investors told reporters that the markets were reacting to President Bush's unveiling of a $145 billion anti-recession plan Friday. Rather than reassuring people, the announcement was taken as official confirmation that bad times are indeed ahead. Then it was sell, sell, sell.

U.S. and European markets stabilized a bit after the Federal Reserve Board slashed interest rates before the opening bell Tuesday, though the Dow Jones industrial average still fell 1 percent. Fed Chairman Ben S. Bernanke, facing criticism from Wall Street that he has not done enough to prop up the markets, can hardly be accused of sleeping through this crisis. Indeed, the risk is that Mr. Bernanke may seem himself to be panicking, given that the Fed stepped in just eight days before it was scheduled to hold a regular rate-setting meeting.

The sequence of events illustrates how little room policy-makers have to maneuver, and how easily their well-intentioned steps can go awry. Inflation hit 4.1 percent in 2007, the highest level in 17 years. Perhaps Mr. Bernanke can ignore inflation in favor of recession-fighting for now. But at some point, the declining dollar and other factors will constrain his ability to cut interest rates. Some aspects of the current predicament are not easily treated by conventional monetary and fiscal medicine. For example, the Fed's rate cuts are supposed to spur consumer and business activity by reducing the cost of borrowing. But the credit crunch reflects lender concerns about borrowers' creditworthiness; some people can't get cash at any interest rate. Given the lax lending standards that prevailed until recently in the housing market, some tightening of standards may even be healthy.

A similar point applies with regard to fiscal policy, an intrinsically blunter instrument than monetary policy. Congress and the president can give the economy a short-term boost through temporary tax relief and other measures targeted to the consumers and businesses likeliest to spend quickly. Yet even if they act by Feb. 15, as Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid, D-Nev., suggested this week, the first checks would not go out until May or June, according to the director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. And that assumes that Congress and the president avoid the temptation to lard a stimulus package with public works spending or tax breaks for special interests, all of which would not only waste money but create time-consuming political conflict. The financial markets have taken a roller-coaster ride, from the euphoria of the subprime boom to the angst of this week's market bust. Government, though, must steer a steadier course.

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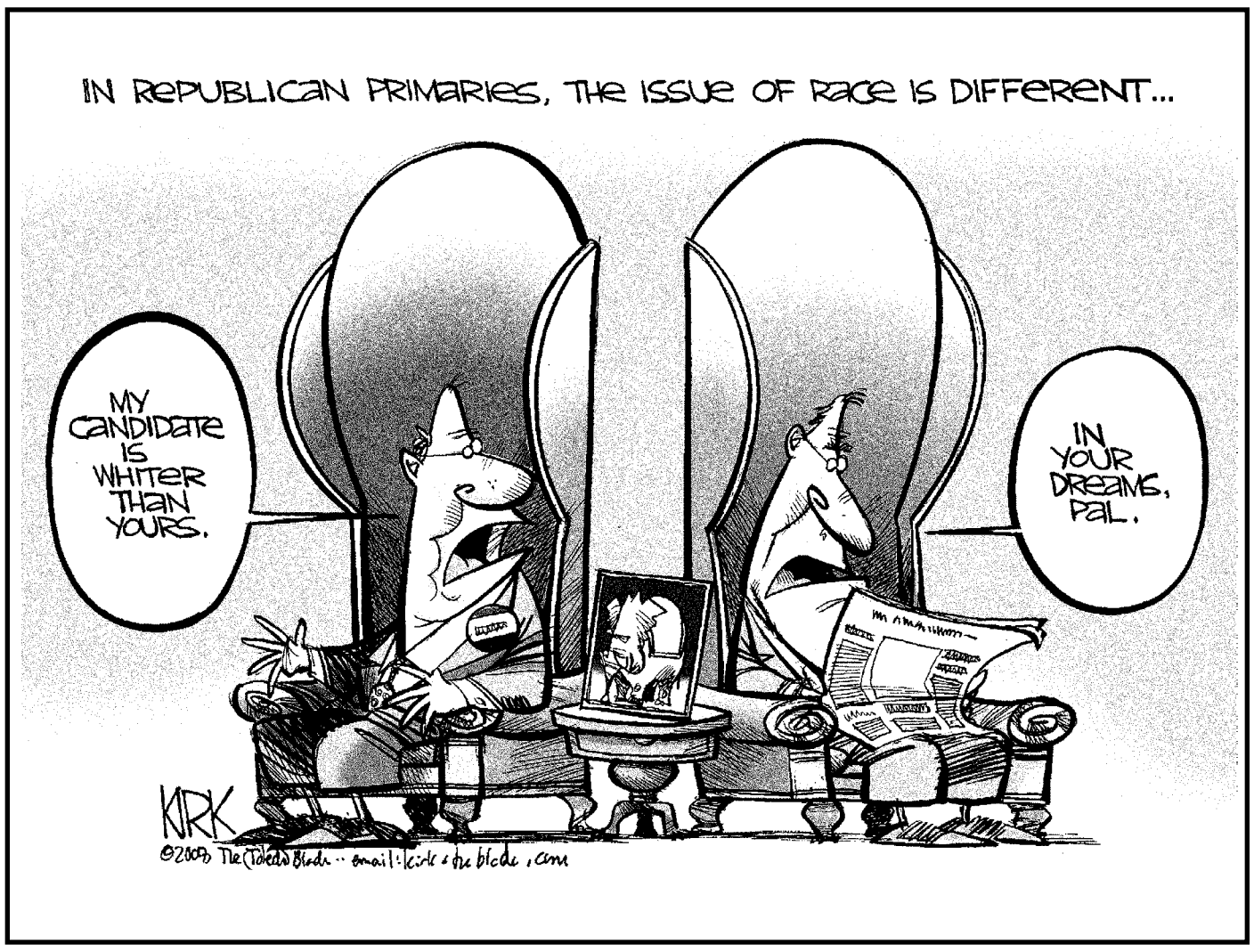
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Chaos and happy hour

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed's column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at SaipanBlog.com and TropicalEd.com.

Today is one of those days when we have to put off happy hour for a few moments and dig into some real economics. I sure hate it when the outside world intrudes into my fun time. Ah, welcome to 2008, dear Commonwealth, which is already shaping up to be an economic humdinger.

Unless you've been hiding in a Marpi cave, you know that the world's financial markets are winding up a week of full-blown, slobbering freak outs. By sheer and utter luck of timing, my January 11th column in this space, "The peso, the dollar, and everything," ran just before the recent turmoil, and it did hint at the fun we'll have this year.

Since most people in Saipan are straddling, somehow, the economic juncture of East and West, we can't ignore the big changes in the works.

I won't bore you with the details pertaining to the convulsions the various stock markets went through. But let's note this profound fact: As people freaked over the plunge in U.S. markets at the open of this week, the U.S. Federal Reserve raised eyebrows and inspired headlines by a whopping 75 basis point, which is to say, 0.75 percentage point, rate cut. Very radical medicine, to be sure. But what does this mean? Well, I think it shows a willingness to weaken the dollar even further, in order to prop up the stock market.

I want to walk you through the steps on this, since the popular press can't (and won't), so here's how this gig works:

1. If you reduce interest rates, you correspondingly increase the price of related bonds.

2. An increased price of bonds means that people, including, notably, foreigners, will buy less of them, because they are now more expensive.

3. This decrease in the quantity of bonds purchased means that there is a decreased demand for the currency (in this case, dollars) in which the bonds are denominated.

4. The decreased demand for the currency results in a decreased price (i.e. value) for that currency. Which is to say, the currency is weaker than it would have been if the interest rate had not been reduced.

5. As for Step 5, well, there is no Step 5, we're already done. It's as simple as that. Ain't economics grand?

> "The turmoil that we're seeing is not a normal hiccup in financial markets. This isn't just random market static or fluctuation. It is, instead, an early tremor in a shift in the basic character of the U.S. economy and the world's balance of power."

As for the Commonwealth's slice of the world, we know that our alien workers are getting less of their native currencies in trade for their Yankee dollars. That's one story, already told.

Here's another, recently told: You may have noticed an article in yesterday's *Tribune*, "So far, so good," scribed by Assistant Editor Mark Rabago. "Fueled by strong market demand as well as the renminbi's robust exchange rate against the U.S. dollar," the article notes, "the resumed Shanghai-Saipan flights of China Eastern Airlines is enjoying great success so far."

Indeed, Saipan is a cheaper proposition this year than it was last year for tourists who are buying ever weaker dollars with their native currencies.

But this isn't the time to start jumping up and down with unrestrained glee about cross-currency effects on Saipan's tourists. The turmoil that we're seeing is not a normal hiccup in financial markets. This isn't just random market static or fluctuation. It is, instead, an early tremor in a shift in the basic character of the U.S. economy and the world's balance of power. The U.S. economy, suffering under a crushing load of debt, and smothered by the world's largest and most expensive entitlement programs, will be losing ground against Asia's rising nations. There are going to be some big surprises on the way; the past week has just been a warm up.

Interesting times are here. And you live in them. Things might very well calm down for a few months, but in the next five years or so, you're going to see some formerly comfortable and smug people getting financially wiped out. Now that we've paid heed to that for today, let's dig into happy hour and unwind from this action-packed week.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

'It's not about the numbers'

DINANA TAOTAO TANO group would like to send out its utmost thank you and appreciations to all of the people and supporters that joined the motorcade and to the supporters along the way from Garapan to San Antomio beach side and all the way to As Matuis and to the supporters who contributed to the Dinana Taotao Tano cause on Jan. 20, 2008, which was a success.

Between 9:45 and 11am people continued to show up, some sat in their cars throughout the set up and preparations and some came down to help. Majority of supporters were at other areas. The entire beach side in front of the Kristo Rai church was filled with cars waiting for the motorcade to begin. Cars were lined up along the road while rules of the road were implemented.

We would like to thank all the supporters that had joined the motorcade along the way and split up throughout San Vicente, Kagman area and Tanapag. The motorcade was a success.

Taotao Tano would like to express the biggest concern most individuals and media have about numbers. It is not about the numbers, it's about the fundamentals and principles of this movement and that the Federal legislation is opposed by the silent majority and the fact that we the TAOTAO TANO have been disrespected in our homeland by both foreign nonresident guest workers and the federal government through the DOI/OIA.

Yes, I myself was in support when I first heard of a federal takeover, the same way everyone on island did, given the economic state we are in. But after careful consideration, research, monitoring and studies of the movement, we disagreed and opposed a federal legislation simply because it is disrespectful, biased, collusive, and overly exaggerated using old data reports.

We believe that this entire federal legislation was a collusion and is overly exaggerated. Our local people must realize the effects and impact that this legislation proposes to do and the future of our children and their generations to come is at stake. My fellow indigenous local people need to wake up, take a stand and be heard that we oppose these federal legislation for it is wrong. Our Covenant agreement is being challenged and we must all unite to protect our Covenant and self-governance. A prime example is our neighboring island of Guam and Hawaii I urge each and every local to look to these islands and ask yourself the question whether it is right for our people.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano CNMI Association Inc.

Racial screening on the islands

I can't think of a better way to end what was a truly wonderful Martin Luther King Day than listening to a delightful Public Service Announcement that I got to hear on the radio. This PSA announced that free screening would be available to women to check for a number of serious diseases including cervical and breast cancer, among others. What a great idea, I thought, and a wonderful service to the community. This being Saipan, however, no great idea can ever be implemented without being completely bastardized in the process. Yep, you guessed it, according to the announcement, the screening will be available only to women of indigenous descent.

Now, the announcement did not specify what percentage of indigenous descent one must possess in order to qualify for the service, but I'm guessing it's well in excess of 50 percent.

The folks who put together the announcement also didn't specify who would be conducting the racial screening prior to the cancer screening, so it would probably be a good idea to bring your Racial Purity Card along with any relevant medical records just to be safe. For proper health care, it's always a good idea to carry proof-of-race cards along with any proof-of-insurance documentation.

The announcement also didn't mention if the doctors and nurses carrying out the screening would be racially pure or not. It would be nice to know the medical staff's racial background, some might actually be an impure Foreign Outsider Haole Americans. It's ironic that when we need work from our Outsiders, they are "valuable members of our community" but when it comes time to provide services the attitude quickly changes to "indigenous only."

It's really too bad that Dr. King weren't alive today, so he could witness first hand, how well his message of equality for all Americans regardless of skin color has been understood and practiced in the CNMI. It would no doubt bring a tear to his eye. Perhaps it would prompt him to revisit his most famous speech: "I have a dream, that one day, on the island of Saipan, islanders will have the freedom to discriminate against fellow Americans and deny them the same medical benefits that others receive, based solely on the color of their skin and ethnic heritage." It's got a nice ring to it, and it's a good message to teach our children.

Anyway, I hope everyone had a happy healthy and very racially pure Martin Luther King Day! And don't forget to get your very important cancer screening. Oh, and more importantly don't forget to bring your Racial-Purity Card.

William Strand
via e-mail

Initiative II

In a letter to the editor written sometime ago, I wrote about the constitutional right of citizens of the CNMI to take actions to formulate proposed legislation to be submitted for passage at a regular or special election. I wrote because an event of historical significance had occurred. A group of local citizens actually availed themselves of this Constitutional process. The implementation of the initiative process was evidence, for the first time, of dissatisfaction with our legislators by a group or groups of voters. Regardless of the issues addressed by the initiatives, the very fact that the process occurred was a good sign of the healthiness of the democratic process in our electorate. Democracy entails two inseparable criteria: freedom and responsibility.

Part of the dictionary definitions for initiative given in the previous letter included; 1. The active part of taking the first steps in any undertaking: lead; 2. Readiness and ability to be the one to start a course of action.

Recently, I have read of consideration being given to the idea of taxing foreign imports being sold in the Commonwealth. This action, to be taken by our Legislature, has the intent of encouraging the purchase of items that are locally manufactured and to the extent possible purchasing locally produced goods. We as intelligent consumers and don't need legislative interference. We can again demonstrate our initiative as follows.

Where you spend your money is a source of power that indicates your preferences. Businesses need to be aware that we will spend our money where it will benefit our economy. Where do you spend your money? Do you buy your groceries at a locally owned store? Does that locally owned store employ local folk? Inasmuch as possible, do you buy locally produced items made by indigenous labor? Is the gas station where you refuel your vehicle locally owned? Are the attendants local? Do you eat out at locally owned restaurants? Are the waiters or waitresses local?

Think about the "trickle down effect." If we spend our money as described above, the owners pay local business gross revenue taxes and every individual pays local income taxes. But in addition, the money is re-circulated in the CNMI economy. The local business owners spend their profits here. The indigenous employees spend there money here. Hence our economy revives and the multiplier effect begins

If the Legislature taxes imports, the business owners will simply raise the prices and we will end up paying the increased tax. That's robbing from Peter to pay Paul.

Knowledge is power. The next time you get your car refueled, find out who owns the gas station. Look at the attendants. If the owners or the workers are not local, money is going off-island. Check out the other places where you spend your money. I am proud to be a participating resident of the CNMI and equally proud of the small role I have played in its development. I have faith that we can revive this economy and live happy lives. All we need to do is seek knowledge and use our initiative, responsibly, to apply that knowledge to our problems. We also need to be aware that too much talking about our problems without any action is a waste of time. Talking is over. Just do it! Be a powerful consumer.

Roger N. Ludwick
Sadog Tasi, Saipan

'End the diversionary tactics'

Dear CNMI teachers:

The headlines about teachers suffering is something I can't ignore after the many years of service I have given to teachers and the CNMI Public School System. "I told you so" was my first thought and now you can see I was right about the need for teachers to exercise their rights at the bargaining table. Teachers wouldn't be suffering if they had listened to their Teacher Rep and not the losers of the election (ACT) who vowed to not support me and keep teachers divided and polarized even until this very day. In the end the truth has set me free and teachers who are suffering should now be able to see that the teachers did it to themselves by not supporting their Teacher Rep who was fighting for them.

The suffering teachers are getting what they asked for because they did nothing to preserve the integrity of their own well-being until it was too late. The last ditch effort by ACT to try and get the Board to reconsider the salary decreases was too little too late and now that the economic crisis has set in, PSS is no longer financially capable of bringing all the salaries back up for the non-HQ teachers. If they all passed the test today, I don't believe there is enough money to raise all of their salaries to the expected level. It's sad that these teachers had to learn the hard way but I'm sure everyone has experienced learning something the hard way in their life.

But most people that learn a lesson the hard way are never a victim of the same mistake again in their life and I can't wait to see what teachers will do if the court rules favorably on the questions I presented. My mother taught me that "you never allow yourself to get bitten by the same snake twice" and hopefully teachers can now realize that all the efforts to discredit me by ACT were figuratively snakebite efforts that diminished the opportunity for all teachers to have better working conditions and a better salary resolution on the PRAXIS requirement. I'm not happy about these teachers suffering but I do hope that these teachers have finally learned their hard lesson about representation on the Board.

I actually wanted to give up on trying to help teachers because its so hard to help people that don't want your help but as I told some of the Board members, "God is in this too" and I was dragged right back into this Teacher Rep stuff on my last working day as the official Teacher Rep after finally getting the former Board chairman to join me in submitting the questions to the Supreme Court. Needless to say, I truly care and I can't just walk away now, which is why I'm seriously reconsidering running again once the court rules, just to finish the job I started which was to give teachers the ultimate solution to all their concerns by getting teachers to the bargaining table.

Teacher will have to make a decision in the not too distant future after the Supreme Courts rules on the questions I submitted. Teachers need to know that ACT is still promoting the idea that the Teacher Rep is only an advisory position but I am promoting the rights of teachers to bargain with the PSS on all issues affecting teachers. It should now be common knowledge and common sense as to whom teachers should be supporting should I run again.

I am truly praying the high court will rule in favor of teachers' bargaining rights and that the teachers who are suffering may finally have a legitimate chance at getting some kind of relief—but they still need to pass the test. I strongly believe the test is only the basic requirements for a professional educator, like we see in other professions where you must pass a test. In fact, there are really three other components to being a truly Highly Qualified Teacher that is not even being required by PSS. A HQT must also master their Performance in the Classroom, the Assessment capabilities of student activities and achievement and their performance for improvements, the mastery of being a humanistic practitioner in dealing with children, which is vital for teachers that have never been a parent. The best thing that teachers can now do for themselves is to become all teachers working together and headed in the same direction in support of their Teacher Representative. To do otherwise is ludicrous because it's the formula for success in a democracy. The CNMI Constitution and federal law intended for our teachers to have the right to bargain like the rest of the teachers in America and we must put an end to the divisionary tactics of ACT and become a united teacher workforce headed in the right direction.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Former BOE Teacher Rep

The Weather

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲79° ▼73°	▲79° ▼72°	▲80° ▼74°	▲80° ▼74°	▲81° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85	▼73
Palau	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼76

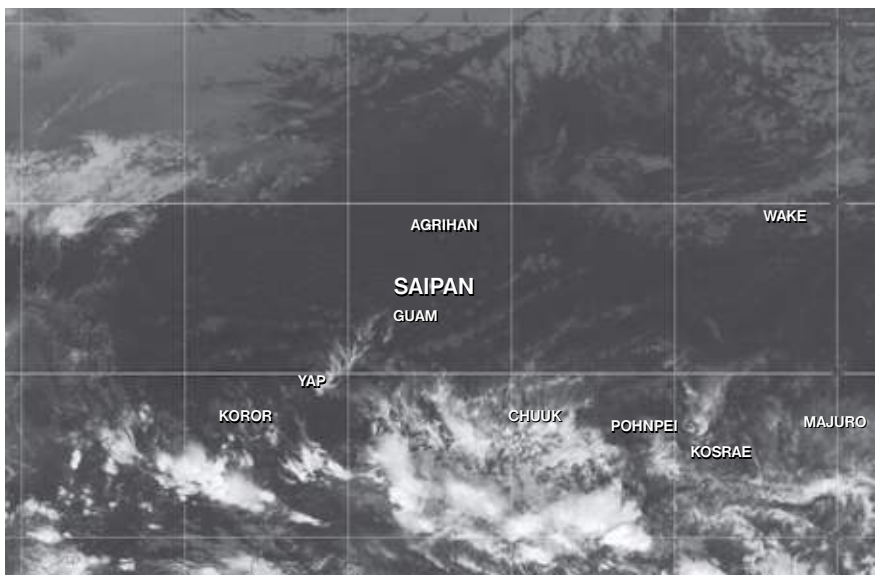
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲75	▼64
Beijing	Cloudy	▲34	▼21
Hong Kong	Rain	▲65	▼62
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲77	▼68
London	Partly Sunny	▲46	▼40
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼47
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼70
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼60
New York	Cold	▲29	▼22
Osaka	Cloudy	▲39	▼31
Paris	Cloudy	▲41	▼32
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲40	▼32
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲52	▼26
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲41	▼35
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲49	▼43
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲33	▼16
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼38
Washington, DC	Cold	▲34	▼21

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
03:32AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:19AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
04:10PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
09:08PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JAN. 24, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends from EQ130E to 2N145E to EQ159E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring mainly along and just north of the trough primarily between 130E and 134E which is southwest of Palau and also between 137E and 159E well south of the primary islands within Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei State with the exception of Kapingamarangi and Nukuoro Atolls. A cold front extends from 23N180 to near Wake Island at 18N168E and then extends back to around 22N153E. Low level cloudiness and scattered light showers are found along and up to 100 miles north of this boundary along the northwest corner of our discussion area. An extensive area of scattered showers and mid to low-level cloud cover exists within the cool northerly flow coming off of mainland China primarily north of 20N and west of 138E otherwise within Micronesia. High pressure prevails with only a few lines of trade-wind showers propagating westward.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47AM	6:11PM
Saturday	6:47AM	6:12PM
Sunday	6:47AM	6:12PM
Monday	6:47AM	6:13PM
Tuesday	6:47AM	6:13PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	08:42PM	08:36AM
Saturday	09:32PM	09:13AM
Sunday	10:20PM	09:49AM
Monday	11:08PM	10:23AM
Tuesday	11:56PM	10:59AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Guam-Nagoya

CO 971	7:45am	10:30am	1,2,4,5,6,7
NW 023	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO 904	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Guam-Narita

JO 982	4:15am	7:00am	Daily
CO 961	7:20am	9:55am	Daily
CO 006	1:00pm	3:45pm	Daily
JO 942	3:30pm	6:15pm	Daily
NW 081	3:55pm	6:50pm	Daily
NW 073	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO 963	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Nagoya-Guam

NW 024	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily
CO 970	11:30am	4:00pm	Daily
CO 905	8:25pm	12:50am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Narita-Guam

JO 941	9:30am	2:05pm	Daily
NW 074	9:45am	2:25pm	Daily
CO 962	11:05am	3:35pm	Daily
CO 007	5:15pm	9:50pm	Daily
NW 082	8:30pm	1:15am+1	Daily
CO 964	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
JO 981	9:30pm	2:05am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589	8:05am	3:00am+1	1,5

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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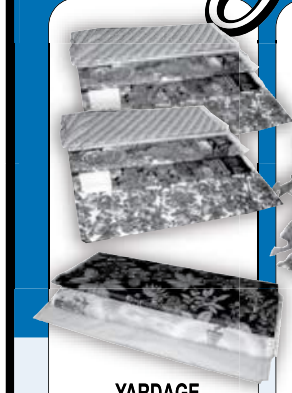
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Plystn Photo Frame Rose 99¢

Fabric Shower Curtain $11.99

Polyester Shower Curtain $7.79

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Bedsheet Queen $10.99

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Maple Photo Frame 8x10 $3.49

Poster Frame Black 18x24 $8.99

Poster Frame Black 22x28 $11.99

Quilt Batting 45"x60" $5.79

Styro Conesc 9x4 White $1.69

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Rafia 4oz. $3.69

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Best Buys!

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Madrid Bed Skirt Full $15.79

Bed Sheet 80x90 $5.00

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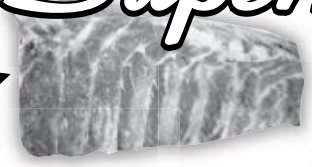
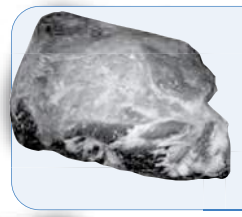

Danish Pork Spare Ribs 10 lbs. $14.99/cs.

Pork Spareribs 30lbs. $19.99 /cs.

New Zealand Beef For Stew Family Bag 7lb $14.99 /bg.


New Zealand Boneless Beef Chuck $1.99 /lb.

Whole Chicken Fryers 30lbs. $37.99 /cs.

Chicken Leg Quarters 22lb. $16.99 /cs.

New Zealand 1/2 Shell Mussels 2.2lb. $5.99 /ea.

Asahi Sugar 4.4 lb $1.79 /ea.

Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml $6.50 /cs.

Kristov Vodka Cruisers 275ml. $1.49 /ea.

Gain Powder Laundry Detergen 120 load $17.99 /ea.

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USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS							
U07-098T	2004	CAMRY 4DR	AUTO	27675	SILVER	ACE-355	13,799
R07-025F	2004	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	43820	BEIGE	ACC-860	13,999
R07-016F	2005	MATRIX	AUTO	19890	GRAY	ABV-759	11,299
GM CARS							
U08-002P	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	9706	BLUE	ACE-586	8,999
U07-123P	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	9500	GRAY	ACE-688	8,999
R07-031F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	68515	YELLOW	ABY-169	8,999
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	8,699
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	7,899
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	9,599
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999
U07-075R	2005	EPICA 4DR.	AUTO	10098	BEIGE	ACA-204	8,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS							
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	15,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X4 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	11,899
R07-026F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 REG/CAB	MANUAL	46550	WHITE	ACA-308	9,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS							
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	8,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	8,999
U07-108P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	45099	SILVER	ADF-431	8,999
U07-109P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	43869	SILVER	ADF-371	8,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	16,799
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	7,999
U07-118T	2004	MAZDA MX3 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	33366	SILVER	ADH-312	12,799
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	10,899
VANS							
U07-096	2000	SIENNA XLE	AUTO	92766	GRAY	ACO-561	8,999
SPORT UTILITY							
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	13,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	12,799
U07-007T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	41649	BEIGE	ACB-455	14,999
U07-082P	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		13,599

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2x6x14	$8.50/Pc	
2x6x16		$14.50/Pc
2x6x20	$11.90/Pc	

UTILITY LUMBERS

	Regular	Treated
2x4x12	$4.20/Pc	$6.20/Pc
2x4x14	$5.00/Pc	$7.00/Pc
2x4x16	$6.00/Pc	$8.20/Pc
2x4x18	$6.30/Pc	$9.60/Pc
2x4x20	$7.20/Pc	$10.50/Pc

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Rope $2/pc
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Roof tin 15% off
Shower room 35% off
Window 35% off
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Formica $5/pc
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Letter to the Editor

Erase lines that divide the island community

The *Saipan Tribune* and the *Marianas Variety* published a letter to the editor written by Cinta Kaipat titled, *Hodges' Distortions Shameful*. I would like to address the distortions in Ms. Kaipat's letter. She stated, "Let's make this clear: EVERY FOREIGN WORKER IN THE COMMONWEALTH WILL BE DEPORTED WITHIN FIVE YEARS OF PASSAGE OF THE FEDERALIZATION BILL. There are no exceptions... It is the intent of the federalization bill, and those like Mr. Hodges who support it, to deport every single foreign worker, bar none, from the Marianas." (The capitalization was Ms. Kaipat's.)

It is untrue to state that the intent of the federalization bill is "to deport every single foreign worker, bar none, from the Marianas." The intent of H.R. 3079 is clearly written in the bill in Section 102. Statement of Congressional Intent. To paraphrase, the intent is to ensure uniform adherence to long-standing fundamental immigration policies of the United States, to ensure that effective border control procedures are implemented and observed, and that national security and homeland security issues are properly addressed by extending the Immigration and Nationality Act to apply to the CNMI. This will be done by providing special provisions to allow for the phasing out of the CNMI non-resident contract worker program and the phasing in of the Federal responsibilities over immigration in the Commonwealth. The intent statement continues to describe how the federal government intends to minimize adverse economic and fiscal effects associated with the phasing-out the CNMI's nonresident contract worker program, and how it will maximize the Commonwealth's potential for future economic and business growth. Including among the plans is this statement: "providing a mechanism for the continued use of alien workers, to the extent those workers continue to be necessary to supplement the Commonwealth's resident workforce, and to protect those workers from the potential for abuse and exploitation."

Nowhere in this bill does it say, "The intent is to deport every single foreign contract worker." I was surprised that Ms. Kaipat, an attorney, would publish such false statements and assumptions. I am also surprised that members of the Fitial Administration have put forth these same false arguments that Ms. Kaipat has echoed. We should deal with facts. It is a fact that Mr. Hodges does not support the deportation of the guest workers. I do not know who are the "others like Mr. Hodges" that Ms. Kaipat was referring to in her letter, so I cannot speak for them. However, I have worked for the passage of comprehensive federal immigration and labor laws for close to two decades, and I support green cards for long-term guest workers. I concur with President Teddy Roosevelt who said, "Never under any condition should this nation look at an immigrant as primarily a labor unit. He should always be looked at primarily as a future citizen."

Here are the facts about H.R. 3079 as explained to me. The pending CNMI federalization bill does not call for the immediate deportation of alien workers. Instead, it:

1) authorizes alien workers to remain until the end of their contract, or two years, whichever is earlier;

2) Establishes a U.S. Federal (DHS) CNMI-only alien worker program under which current alien workers would be eligible to apply and continue to serve as an alien worker in the CNMI, but under Federal instead of CNMI law;

3) This new Federal program will last at least five years (the transition period), but probably longer depending on the CNMI's labor needs; and

4) Within *two years after enactment, there is to be a report to Congress regarding the future immigration status of long-term CNMI guest workers.*

I was told that confusion is caused by misinterpretation of the "transition period." The bill states, in part, that the permits issued by the Department of Homeland Security for guest workers should go to zero by the end of the transition program period. Opponents of federalization assume that this is the end of the guest worker program, and that the CNMI will no longer be able to make use of guest workers. This is not true. The "transition program period" is a time where Congress is allowing the Department of Homeland Security to be more liberal in allowing guest workers to remain in the CNMI for employment. H.R. 3079 allows for the period to be extended. For example, a guest worker (either present or not) could be allowed into the CNMI through the Department of Homeland Security's permitting authority during the transition program period, despite not being qualified under the regular H-visa program. The permit for such guest worker would only be valid under the terms of the permit issued during the transition period. The expiration of the permit would mean that the guest worker would need to leave the CNMI. Some guest workers may already qualify under the H-visa system and DHS should be able to transition them out from the permit into the H-visa category. After the "transition program period"

See ERASE on Page 16

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Municipality of Saipan
Afetna Square, San Antonio

JUAN BORJA TUDELA
Mayor of Saipan

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
From the Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan has been receiving complaints from residents and certain business establishments regarding the presence of illegal, privately operated cockfighting arenas throughout the island of Saipan. The operators of illegal cockfighting operate with minimal facilities and are almost mobile. Their arenas are inadequate for public safety and pose health risk especially when sales of foods and drinks in these locations are conducted without the necessary permits from the authorized government agencies. In addition, these illegal operators pay no taxes and take money out of individuals who otherwise would spend the money in licensed business.

We wished to inform the public that each year the Office of the Mayor authorizes only one person or entity to conduct cockfight operations, based on a public bidding process in accordance with the provisions of Saipan Cockfighting Act of 1994 and the CNMI Code, specifically 10 CMC subsection 3606 and 10 CMC subsection 3608. A number of factors are evaluated during the bidding process, including the location of the cockpit, which is also subject to the approval of the Mayor. The licensee is authorize to sell drinks and food items, including beer and liquor, while the cockpit is in operation, after obtaining the necessary health and permit requirements.

At present, the only authorized licensee to conduct cockpit operation in Saipan is Saipan Cockpit, whose arena is located on Middle Road, Gualo Rai. Under 10 CMC subsection 3618, any person or individual who willfully or knowingly violates any provision of the Saipan Cockfighting Act of 1994 or any promulgating rules or regulations is guilty of misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than $600.00 or imprisonment of not more than three months or both.

NOTISIAN PUPBLIKU
Offisinan Atkadi
Munisipalidad Saipan

I Offisinan Atkadin Saipan man resibe ke'ha ginen i man residente siha yan g'men unos kuantos na kutmesiante pot ayu siha i timan ligat na sagan gayera guine gi islata. I man nanagayera ni timan ligat dikiki fasilidad niha yan seso matulaika i lugat niha. I lugat niha ti nahong para i proteksion i pupbliku yan tigof mauleg para i hinemlo especiatmente yanggen manman bebende nengkano yan gimen ya man tai lisensia ginen i gobietnamento. Fuera a di enao, ti manman apapase kontribusion tax yan mahahamot i direchon i lisensiao na kumetsiante.

Malagu yu para bai u infotma i pupbliku heneratmente na kada sakan 1 Offisinan Atkadin Saipan a solo man authorisa yan man 'nana'e lisensian gayera, sigun 1 guma'na i atmonedan gayera ni gaige gi probision i lai pot gayera pat i Saipan Cockfighting Act of 1994 yan sigun i gaige gi Kodikun i CNMI, pat'tikulatmentc 1 gaige gi papa 10 CMC, seksiona 3606 yan 10 CMC seksiona 3608. Unos kuantos siha na areglamento manma ebalulu'a gi duranten i atmoneda, kontodo i lugat gayera ni para u inapreba nui Atakdi. I ma lisensia a solo ma authorisa para ufan bende gimen yan nengkano, kontodo sitbesa yan atguayenti, gi duranten anai mabababa i gayera, despues di ma chuli i lisensian hinemlo yan i ginagagao siha na areklamento.

Gi presente, i solo ma authorisa pat ma lisensia na gayera giya Saipan i Saipan Cockpit, ni gaige fasilidad na gi Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Road) giya Gualo Rai.

Sigun gi papa 10 CMC seksiona 3618, ai na petsona , indivi'yuat pat enetnon ni a kontradise i probision i Saipan Cockfighting Act of 1994 pat maseha hafa na areklamento pat regulasion ya ma konbikta, umana mutta tiu mas di sais sientos pesos ($600.00) pat uma presu tiu mas di tres meses osino todo i dos.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Mensahe mula sa Mayor ng Saipan
Reklamo sa Ilegal na Sabong

Nakatanggap ang Mayor's Office ng mga reklamo mula sa mga residente at ilang establisimiyento tungkol sa lantaran at ilegal na operasyon ng sabong sa Saipan. Isinasagawa ang mga ito nang may hindi sapat na pasilidad, at nagaganap sa mga lugar na delikado sa kaligtasan at kalusugan ng publiko, lalo na kung maging mga pagkain at inumin doon ay naibebenta nang walang permit mula sa ahensiya ng gobyemo.

Ipinapaalam namin sa publiko na bawat taon, ang Mayor's Office ay nagbibigay lang ng isang cockfight license. Isang tao o establisiyento lang ang pinapahintultang makapag-operate ng sabungan. Ito ay matapos ang isang public bidding alinsunod sa isinasaad ng *Saipan Cockfighting Act of 1994* at CNMI Code, maging ng 10 CMC § 3606 at 10 CMC § 3608. May ilang bagay na isinasaalang-alang sa public bidding, kasama na ang lugar na pagdadausan ng sabong, na nangangailangan din ng aprubal ng Mayor. Ayon din sa 10 CMC § 3615, ang pagbebenta ng inumin at pagkain sa arena ay pahihintulutan kapag nakakuha ng mga kailangang permit.

Sa ngayon, ang tanging authorized licensee sa Saipan na maaaring mag-operate ng sabungan ay ang *Saipan Cockpit*. Ang arena nito ay matatagpuan sa Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

Ayon sa 10 CMC § 3618, sino man ang mahuling lumabag sa mga probisyon ng Saipan Cockfighting Act of 1994, o kaakibat na batas, kapag nakasuhan, ay magmumulta ng halagang hindi hihigit sa $600.00, o makukulong nang hindi hihigit sa tatlong buwan, o mapapatawan ng parehong parusa. Dahil dito, tinatawagan namin mga illegal operator ng sabungan na igalang ang batas.

Matthew Gregory
CNMI Attorney General

JUAN B. TUDELA
Mayor of Saipan

Rebecca Warfield
Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

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Tel.: (670) 234-6280/6208 • Fax: (670) 234-1190

ERASE

From Page 14

ends however, the regular H-visa system will come into force. And the CNMI and its employers will be able to fill positions with guest workers, but such requests and the guest workers would need to qualify under the H-visa system. The CNMI can look at Guam to see how the H-visa system works for them. The ultimate goal, as stated in the intent portion of the bill, is to have the Immigration and Nationality Act apply equally in the CNMI as it does in the United States and other U.S. territories. I am sure Ms. Kaipat could contact the writers of H.R. 3079 if she requires clarification on the intent of the bill or the meaning of specific provisions.

Again, H.R. 3079, requests that the administration report to Congress within two years with recommendations on the existing guest worker population present at the time of enactment. No one knows what action will be taken after recommendations are made, but the U.S. Congress could decide to grant non-immigrant status or green cards to long-term workers. This would make sense since these workers are clearly skilled, and are needed to supplement the small local labor pool in the CNMI as Ms. Kaipat states. It would benefit everyone in the CNMI to grant status to the long-term workers who have been renewed for five, 10, 20 or more years. The fact that these guest workers have been constantly renewed testifies to their commitment, professionalism, skills, and their many contributions to the CNMI. If they were given status there would be no need for a huge and expensive guest worker program. Additionally, any labor glut would ease, as individuals not presently employed would leave the CNMI to seek employment where there were jobs.

It does not matter whether the guest workers are required to exit for 60 days or six months, the order would divide families and cause great harm to the U.S. citizen children and their parents. The children of the guest workers, an estimated 6,000 to 8,000, who were born in the CNMI are United States citizens. When the guest workers are forced to exit, they will have to bear the costs for their spouses and children to accompany them.

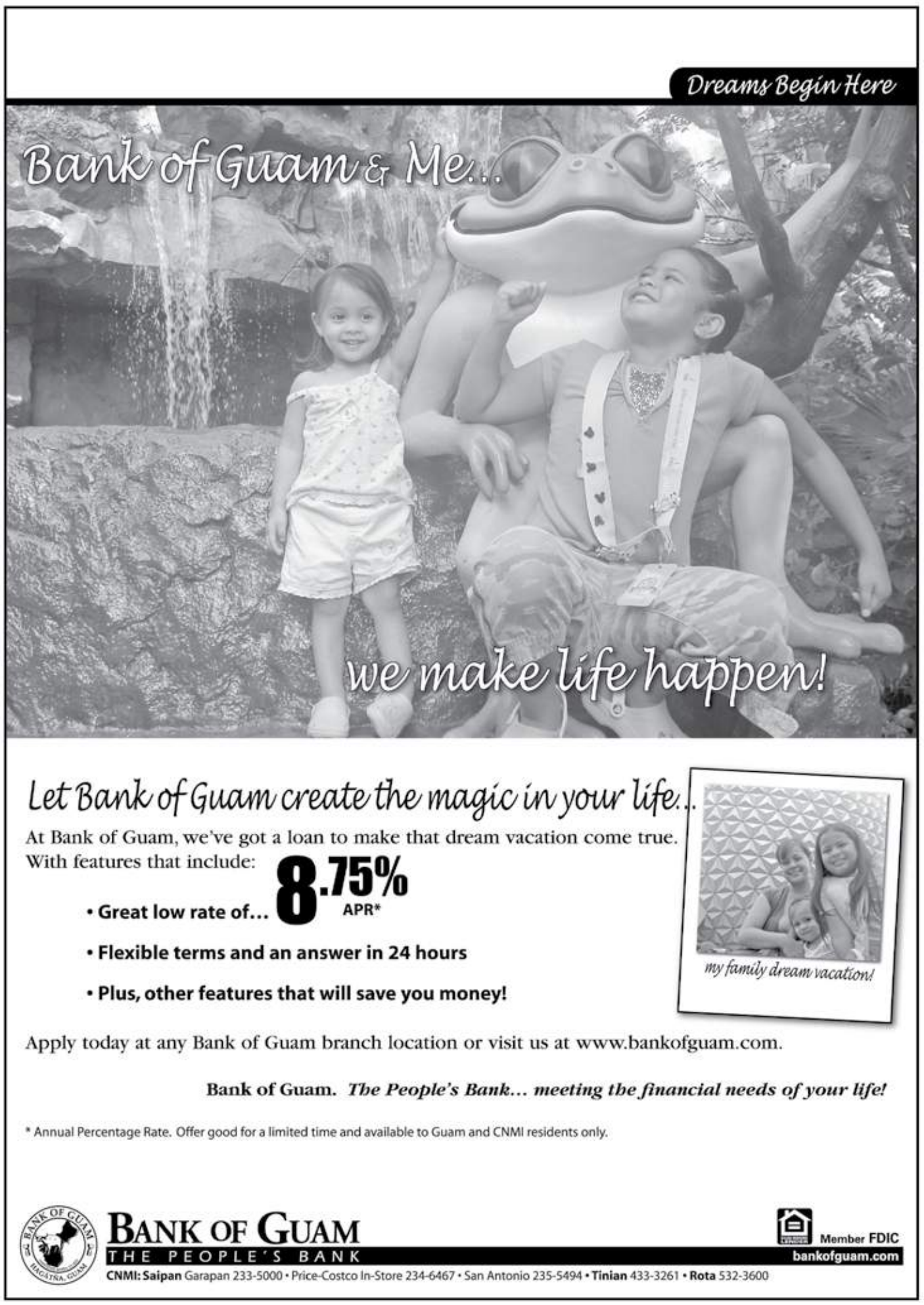
I read P.L. 15-108 several times and read two different versions of the regulations several times too. The law clearly imposes major obstacles for an abused worker to file a labor complaint, get justice, and receive due process, as the Federal Ombudsman and other attorneys have previously stated. I take issue with Ms. Kaipat's statement, "The new Commonwealth labor law, P.L. 15-108, welcomes foreign workers, as the Commonwealth always has…" The language that I read in the law was not welcoming. The CNMI welcomes, and always has welcomed foreign contract workers, to the CNMI because it has lacked the local workforce needed to fill jobs and build the economy. The reality is that the guest workers are welcomed to perform the jobs that individuals in the local labor pool cannot or would not fill. They are welcome as long as they remain disenfranchised, indentured servants with no political or social rights. Additionally, the CNMI has not adequately enforced labor law, has a problem with trafficked minors and women, has consistently had backlogs of labor cases, and does not effectively enforce monetary judgments. In fact, millions of dollars are owed workers in back wages, unpaid overtime pay, and illegal deductions from uncollected judgments. Federalization would address these issues and prevent injustices within the system.

In P.L. 15-108, Section 4953, The Exit Provision, is a policy statement that defends the periodic exit. It states there that a primary reason for the exit provision is "to enforce the basic bargain that was made with each foreign national worker who entered the Commonwealth for employment that supports the Commonwealth's economy and not for permanent residence or change in status." The bill further states, "An exit by a foreign national worker under the periodic exit requirement is a repatriation." It also states that another reason for exit is to open jobs for the local residents, so of course, it is likely that the exited guest workers will never return to the CNMI since local residents will be encouraged to replace them. The "basic bargain" that P.L. 15-108 addresses, is not a bargain at all.

It does not matter whether the guest workers are required to exit for 60 days or six months, the order would divide families and cause great harm to the U.S. citizen children and their parents. The children of the guest workers, an estimated 6,000 to 8,000, who were born in the CNMI are United States citizens. When the guest workers are forced to exit, they will have to bear the costs for their spouses and children to accompany them. Most have expressed that they could not afford the airfare to bring family members with them. This is not surprising since most earn a meager $3.55 an hour. With the recent minimum wage increases, the DOL has allowed employers to amend the labor contracts to cut benefits such as housing and travel, which has put the guest workers in even deeper financial peril.

Some of the parents of U.S citizen children told me that their children would not be able to attend school in their homelands. As foreign citizens, the parents would be charged tuition to enroll their children in school, and they said they could not afford this expense. Especially since the parents will most likely be unemployed for the exile period. Many have stated that they would try to make arrangements to leave their children in the CNMI to attend school so they will not interrupt their education. If the children did go with their parents, most would

See ERASE on next page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PUBLIC NOTICE

2008 First Quarterly Board of Director's Meeting

When : January 31, 2008
Where : Aqua Resort & Hotel
Time : 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

AGENDA

John Arriola, Council Chairperson, presiding:

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Establish Quorum
4. Introduction of Guest(s)

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IV. OLD BUSINESS
1. Review of Bylaws recommended amendments by Council members and ADD
2. Call-A-Ride Rider ship Guide and Eligibility Requirement/Application
3. Election of Council Vice Chairperson

V. NEW BUSINESS
1. Review of Council membership
2. Review of Proposed Financial Management (internal control) System

VI. REPORTS:
1. Executive Director
2. Board Chairman
3. State Plan Committee, Chairperson
4. Finance Committee Chairperson
5. Board Membership Review Committee Chairperson

VII. OTHER MATTERS
1. Schedule of next Council meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

By: /s/ John Arriola
Chairperson, Council BOD

Letter to the Editor

Talk about trade schools, and training local workers

Now that the Fed's eminent takeover is here, it is time to start doing something about the complaint of lack of skills within the local communities.

You now have the Rota and Tinian college campuses that are empty, along with the white elephant that the CNMI government owns on Saipan that some politicians are trying to set up as a gambling den.

These facilities could be used for classroom training and in conjunction with many local construction companies and contractors, or other companies to give hands-on practical experience in line with a trade's course.

Just keep the trade schools funding and control away from the DOE and the general fund. It has to be kept in the private sector.

The feds are aware of the lack of qualified trades people in the CNMI or they would not make exceptions in their takeover bill.

Let the Feds make money available to fund a trade school in the CNMI using these mentioned buildings, or possibly a "job corps" type of training facilities could be set up for the local people, both young and the older laid-off government workers to train into another trade area.

I personally have knowledge of local friends that have gone to and completed the Job Corps programs in Hawaii in the past, many years ago. What happened to that program? My stepson went there many years ago and got his GED and learned a few trades as well.

Years ago there was also another program in Hawaii that the Feds and State paid a majority of the wage for employees that the business took in for on-the-job training. This was paid for a certain period of time from time of hire. For the technical jobs we usually got people that had gone to a trade school and came to work to get hands-on experience. In regards to the non-tech jobs, we took in the person that was pre-qualified for a particular job area and referred from the local unemployment office and we then put them on the job and trained them.

This program also extended to the military personnel that were preparing to be separated from the U.S. military. The Feds would pay their full salary for the year prior to them being separated from the service and they were retrained into a civilian job.

Try think about this instead of fighting the eminent situation with the Feds and trying to continue with the status quo as the CNMI sinks deeper.

John Mixson
Bicol, Philippines

ERASE

From Page 16

have to postpone their education.

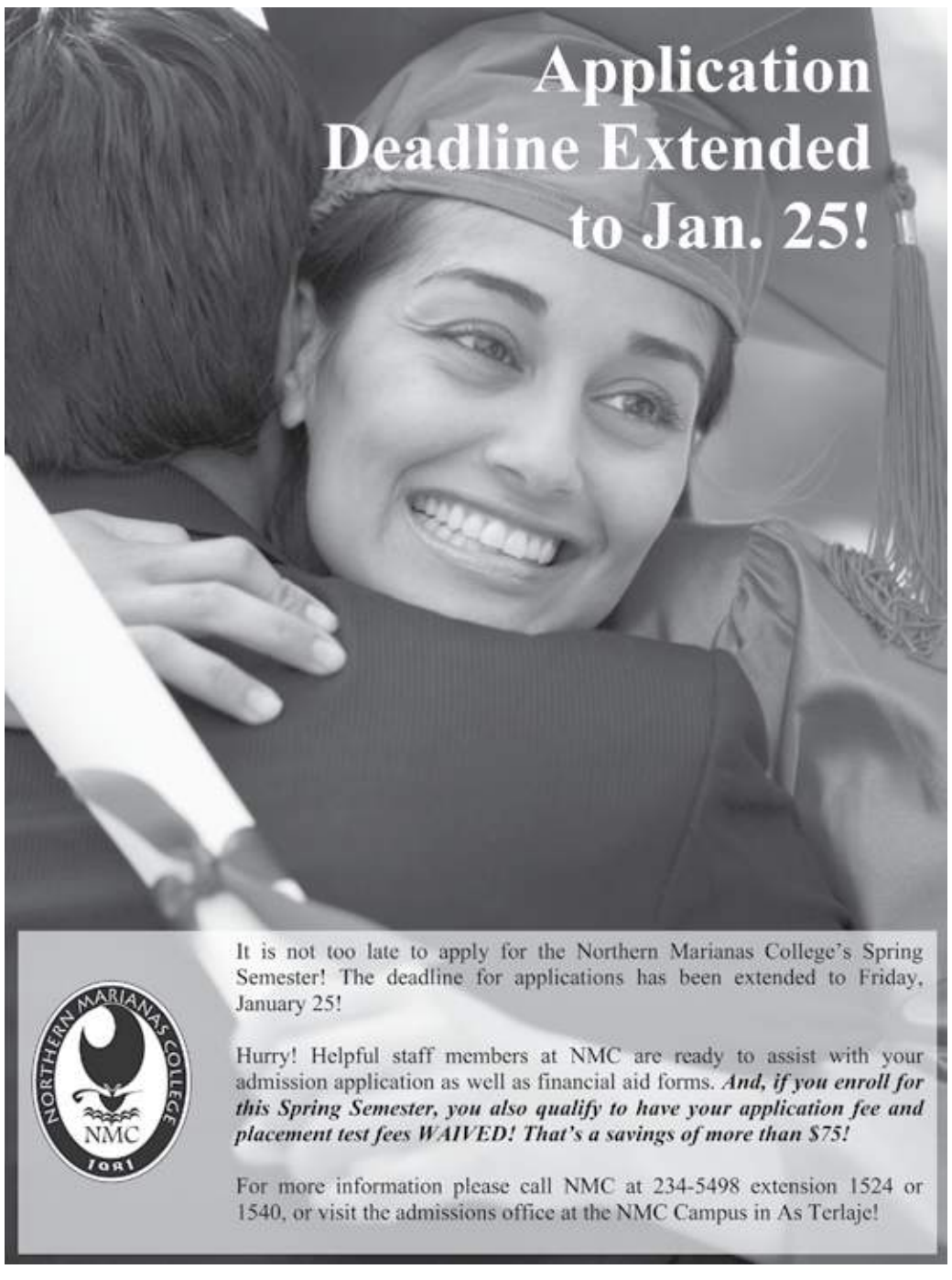
Assuming that a guest worker *can* raise the funds to bring their spouse and children with them during the exit period, how would they be able to support their family for their period of unemployment? Many workers have stated that since they have lived in the CNMI longer than they have lived in their homelands, they have no home, no land, no place to go should they be forced to exit. The hardship placed on these workers and their families will be unbearable. It is inhumane to exile a family to homelessness.

I have received hundreds of emails and letters testifying to the sleepless nights, the worry, and the emotional pain that the anticipation of this provision has caused the parents and hundreds of innocent children. Children should not be spending their days worrying about being separated from parents, or living in fear of being exiled to a foreign country. They should not be crying in pain over thoughts of being uprooted from school, friends, and the only home that they know and love. It is astounding to me that out of a beautiful culture that so reveres and respects the family, a callous plan such as this could be written and enacted into law.

The way that a person treats another person reflects the character of that person; the way that a nation treats the people who live within its borders determines the character of that nation. An exclusive society that disenfranchises a major portion of the population from political and social rights will not prosper politically, socially, morally, or economically. An economy built on the backs of indentured servants will not grow. As long as guest workers remain disenfranchised, the CNMI will not have a free labor market to grow the economy. As long as guest workers are denied of the opportunities to work for more than one employer, to work for as many hours as they are needed, and to share their skills with multiple employers, the economy will suffer. A free and open labor market would result in the economic recovery of the CNMI. P.L. 15-108 stands as a barrier to economic progress and prosperity in the CNMI.

I encourage the 16th Legislature to take another look at P.L. 15-108. I encourage all residents of the CNMI to read H.R. 3079. Misinformation, spin, and twisted words will not change the reality of P.L. 15-108 or diminish the positive impact that H.R. 3079 will have on all the people of the CNMI. Throughout history societies have reevaluated common practices, and have reflected on laws, and individual rights to make positive changes. That is how slavery was abolished, apartheid was extinguished, and change was forced through the civil rights movement, which we commemorate this week in celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Local and federal labor and immigration laws that promote indentured servitude and regard guest workers as replaceable commodities must be replaced with laws that provide for the rights of all the people who call the CNMI home. It is time to erase all lines that divide the community. It is time to set more seats at the table. It is time to open arms and hearts and work together.

Wendy L. Doromal
Florida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It is not too late to apply for the Northern Marianas College's Spring Semester! The deadline for applications has been extended to Friday, January 25!
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More 24-hour water for CK and Susupe

Within the past few weeks the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Water Division has been able to sustain a 24-hour water supply to the entire village of Susupe and most of the perimeter of Chalan Kanoa.

The 24-hour water service in Susupe is the first time this village has had this service in over 30 years. The village of Chalan Kanoa is well on the way to getting the same level of service, with the perimeter areas now under 24-hour water.

From Chalan Hagoi in the north to As Perdido Road in the south, from Beach Road in the west to Texas Road in the east, residents now enjoy 24-hour water service and line pressures near 76 psi (pounds per square inch).

Susan Emperial, a long-time resident of Chalan Kanoa residing on the corner of Hilarion Street and Guillermo Street, states that, "Our water is much better now than before. The pressure is much stronger and the water hour is always on time. We can't complain because this is the first time we have this strong pressure."

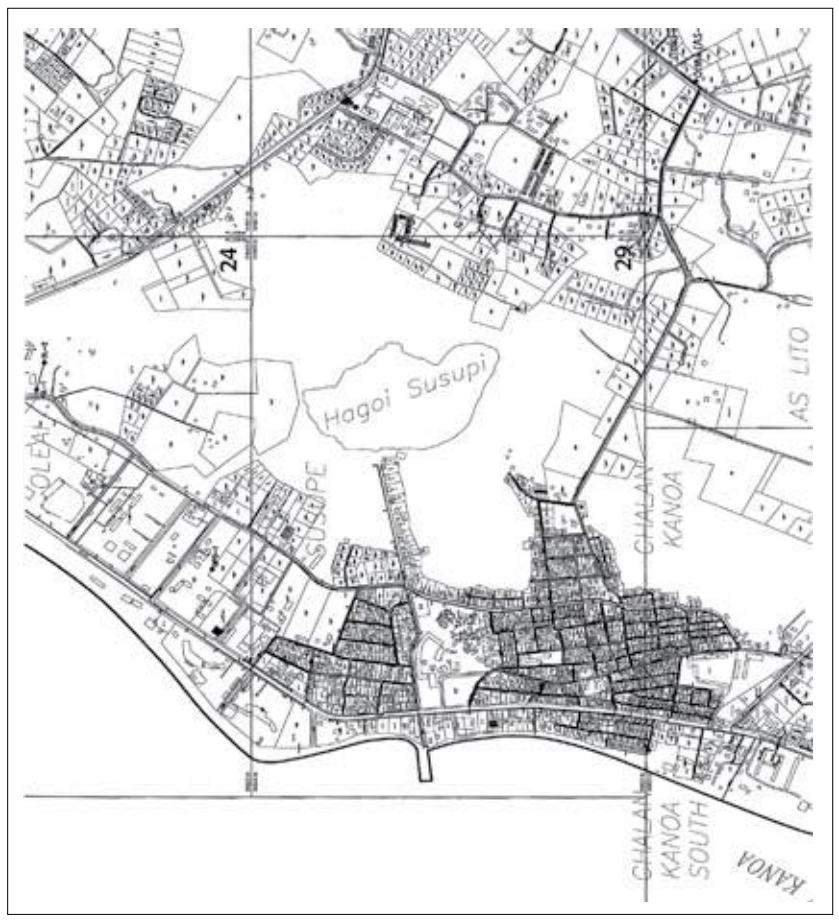
While notable achievements, the CUC Water Division Manager cautions the public to continue to exercise water conservation and to report any leaks. The higher sustained water pressure will cause old lines to leak or break. These breaks will continue to cause periodic outages as they are discovered and repaired.

As the Water Task Force Leak Detection and Repair contract proceeds within the villages, water availability has increased and water hours are being extended. The main supply reservoir at Isley continues to add storage reserves.

The combination of the meter installation project and the leak detection and repair contracts has encouraged conservation while correcting long time leaks, cross connections and illegal connections. Dead-end lines have been cut and capped residents are encouraged to prevent overflowing water catchments tanks.

Some problem areas remain, though, said CUC. These include the interior streets of Chalan Kanoa. The service line in these areas is old, and crisscross each other like a bowl of spaghetti. Also some of the larger consumers need to have meters repaired or replaced. These include the Marianas Business Plaza (Nauru Bldg.), Joeten Susupe, Aquarius Towers and other businesses.

The attached drawing shows the areas of 24-hour water and those to be brought up to the 24-hour level. The Water Task Force and the CUC Water Division have committed to achieving 24-hour water for both villages and with the help of the Office of Insular Affairs CIP funding are confident this goal will be realized in the next few months. ***(CUC)***



Nahong ni Ocho: Family finally gets to own dream house

GUAM—In the late 1970s, there was a television series called "Eight is Enough," which focused on the daily lives of a couple with six children, all living under one roof. Each week, we watched as this large, gregarious family worked out their differences. Each episode ended with all family members appreciating each other's "space." Of course, this was television and their one roof extended to 4,000 square feet. It's easy to give each other space when you have plenty of space to give. The real world is not always so generous.

Gregory and Melony Cruz, along with their six children, were renting a small home for their big family for several years. In 2006, they applied for financial assistance under the Rural Home Loan Partnership Program. However, their dream of owning a home was nearly shattered. They weren't looking for that "only in the movies" 4,000 square foot home. They just wanted to provide adequate living space to accommodate their sizeable family. Due to the limited market at the time, though, they just could not find a home to purchase that was both affordable and large enough. They nearly gave up on their dream of homeownership. But, when you have a family of eight, "nearly" isn't a concept you accept. It's either all or nothing! Finally in 2007, the family found a home in Barrigada, Guam that met their budget and needs.

Through the Guam Housing Corporation, Gregory and Melony Cruz applied for a RHLP loan. USDA Rural Development and Guam Housing Corp. provided a $200,160 loan to purchase a three-bedroom, two-bathroom home. Mr. and Mrs. Cruz explained that with the persistence and encouragement of the Guam USDA Rural Development staff, they were able to realize their dream of home ownership for the first time.

According to Lorraine P. Shin, USDA Rural Development Hawaii State Director, "The delivery of our housing programs in the Western Pacific is consistent with USDA Rural Development's commitment to providing safe, well-built, affordable homes for low-income persons in rural communities."

Mr. and Mrs. Cruz recommend to all families that they not give up on their dream of becoming homeowners. When people like the staff from the Guam Housing Corporation, and Rural Development believe in your dreams as much as you do, "your dreams will come true." The Cruz family is excitedly making plans to work together furnishing and treasuring their home with all that extra space. They are shining examples of the success of the RHLP Program. Just as that television show of the 1970s declared "Nahong ni Ocho"—eight is indeed enough to make a family very happy when they have a big enough roof over their heads.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development Office, or by visiting USDA's web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Guam, please contact Joseph Diego, Area Director at 671-472-7272 or at joseph.diego@pb.usda.gov. ***(USDA)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Armed robberies

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on the following armed robberies:

On Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, an armed robbery incident at Ling Lin Store located in Chalan Kanoa took place. It involved two male individuals. One of the suspects was armed with a machete.

On Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008, police responded to an armed robbery incident at YYK Apartment located in Fina Sisu. Two masked male individuals were involved, and one of them was armed with a taser. A third suspect was seen waiting in front of the building with a getaway vehicle.

On Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, an armed robbery incident occurred at Suicide Cliff located in Marpi. Investigation reveals that two masked male individuals robbed two tourists. One of the suspects stunned the female victim with a taser gun and slashed the front left tire of the victim's vehicle with a sharp object.

On Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008, at exactly 11:22pm, an attempted armed robbery incident occurred at Smile Store located in San Antonio. The suspect in this case was armed with a knife and described as wearing a green long-sleeved shirt with a hood and a black mask to conceal his face.

Anyone having information about this crime, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. ***(PR)***

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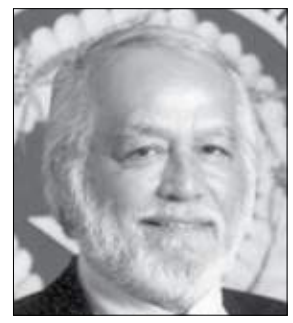

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Staff: Castro, Chris; Palacios, Eugenio

See 16TH on Next Page

Koblerville center still seeking PC donations

The Koblerville Youth Learning Center is still seeking computer donations from generous members of the community.

Koblerville Youth Center still needs computers, whether new or used, for the use of completing homework assignments and projects for youth who regularly visit the center.

"We have received so far two use computers which are currently at Megabyte being serviced, repaired and upgraded and are still in needed of softwares and repairs. We also received a monitor and printer from M/M Attorney Ed & Frances Arriola and are still seeking for more from the community," said Ken Concepcion.

He said they are looking for at least six to 10 computers.

The youth center serves about 200 kids throughout Koblerville, San Antonio, As Lito, Dandan, and San Vicente.

Koblerville Youth Center lacks the technology resources present in other youth centers around the island and elsewhere around the nation.

"Since the opening of the Koblerville Youth Center in June 2007 we have been relying on our community partners in donating because of the zero budgets at the Youth Center. We are seeking any used/new computers and CRT or LCD monitors as well as peripherals to use as student learning systems.

"We just recently wrote to our elected officials from Precinct 1 asking for assistance and challenging them in assisting our youth, especially in Precinct 1. At the moment none have approached to help," said Concepcion.

NMC also offered several computers to the youth center, which will be donated as soon as the transfer papers are completed from the Procurement and Supply office.

"We plan to implement a computer class for our students free of charge. Several I.T. professionals have volunteered their time but could not continue due to the lack of computers at the center. The Koblerville Youth Learning Center has great kids who, if given the opportunity, will achieve great things. [A computer donation] will help them with their grades and keep them off the streets. Any assistance would be appreciated," said Concepcion.

E-mail Ken Concepcion at lancheru@hotmail.com or kobler@pticom.com or call him at 288-0023. ***(PR)***

'IS THAT SO?' JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Christina-Marie E. Sablan reacts during deliberations for the 16th House of Representatives' first session held Tuesday this week.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHA Class of '88 reunion meeting

This is to inform the class of 1988 graduates of Marianas High School that there will be a meeting on Friday, Feb. 1, 2008 at 7pm at Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda residence in As Lito. This is to update plans on the upcoming 20th year class reunion.

"We are encouraging all classmates to please attend this important meeting for reunion day is just around the corner."

For more information, contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. ***(PR)***

Free lecture today by noted writer

The NMI Council for the Humanities is inviting the public to attend a lecture by noted author PF (Fred) Kluge, titled "Writing on Saipan: Writing About Saipan."

The lecture will be held today, Jan. 25, 2008, at 6:30pm, at the Visitors' Center Theater of the American Memorial Park. Admission is free.

IRS seminars for NMI, Guam govt employers

The Internal Revenue Service will conduct the first ever federal tax seminars for governmental employers in Guam, on Jan. 25, 2008, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on Jan. 29, 2008.

The governments of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands and their employees are generally exempt from Social Security and Medicare taxes, but exceptions apply to certain temporary and intermittent positions. Government employers need to be aware of how these taxes apply to wages, reimbursements, fringe benefits, and other payments to their employees.

In these free seminars, specialists from the IRS Office of Federal, State and Local Governments will address topics including determination of employee status, filing requirements for Forms 941, 1099, and W-2, and accountable plan rules for employer reimbursements. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask any questions they have about federal tax issues.

"The FSLG office is committed to making sure the more than 87,000 federal, state and local governmental units and agencies in the United States and Territories have the knowledge and tools they need to stay in compliance with the federal tax laws," said Sunita Lough, director of FSLG. "We have found that a balanced approach to tax administration in this area must include outreach to our governmental customers as well as a vigorous enforcement program. We think these seminars will go a long way to achieving that goal."

Guam seminar, Jan. 25, 2008. The seminar will be held at the Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation, 1240 Route 16, in Barrigada, beginning at 9am. Persons interested in attending or wishing to register for the seminar can call or e-mail Herbert Fakuda at the GDRT office at (671) 635-1883 (hsfakuda@revtax.gov.gu) or Robert Westhoven of IRS at (207) 784-6988 (robert.c.westhoven@irs.gov).

Northern Mariana Islands seminar, Jan. 29, 2008. The seminar will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan, beginning at 9am. Persons interested in attending or wishing to register for the seminar can call the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000, or e-mail Ms. Frances Ada at francesada@dof.gov.mp or Robert Westhoven of IRS at (207) 784-6988 (robert.c.westhoven@irs.gov).

For more information of Federal tax requirements of employers in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, see Publication 80, Circular SS.

The IRS Office of Federal, State and Local Governments is responsible for federal tax administration issues relating to governmental units and their subordinate agencies in the United States. FSLG addresses issues involving employment taxes, excise taxes and information reporting. FSLG is also is responsible for ensuring compliance with and assisting in the administration of FICA coverage agreements under the provisions of Section 218 of the Social Security Act. ***(PR)***

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Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,579.600
Up 134.000
(+2.46%)

HONG KONG
24,315.65
Up 225.48
(+0.94%)

JAKARTA
2,525.957
Up 49.679
(+2.01%)

TOKYO
13,008.85
Up 179.79
(+1.40%)

K. LUMPUR
1,354.48
Up 0.00
(0.00%)

MANILA
3,147.42
Up 89.16
(+2.92%)

SINGAPORE
3,095.88
Up 112.26
(+3.76%)

SEOUL
1,661.4
Up 32.98
(+2.03%)

BANGKOK
749.11
Up 8.46
(+1.14%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,270.17
+298.98

NASDAQ
2,316.41
+24.14

S&P
1,338.60
+28.10

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1451
British Pound	0.5119
Canadian Dollar	1.0244
Chinese Renmbi	7.2255
Euro	0.684
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8079
Indian Rupee	39.51
Indonesian Rupiah	9362.5
Japanese Yen	106.425
Malaysian Ringgit	3.269
New Zealand Dollar	1.3092
Philippine Peso	41.128
Singapore Dollar	1.4309
South Korean Won	949.4
Swiss Franc	1.0901
Taiwan Dollar	32.311
Thailand Baht	31.48

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Stocks recover from sharp losses

NEW YORK (AP)—It started with another stomach-turning drop at the open, and a loss of more than 300 points by midday. Then stocks changed course, raced higher and closed with a dramatic gain of nearly 300.

This wasn't just volatility. This was Wall Street whiplash.

Amid tumbling housing prices, an ongoing credit crisis and growing fears of a recession, turbulence has become a hallmark of Wall Street in recent weeks. And after five straight days of pullbacks, analysts saw some positive signs in Wednesday's trading.

Investors certainly found a reason to buy, perhaps encouraged by the Federal Reserve's unprecedented 0.75-point interest rate cut a day earlier and a widely held bet on another half-point cut next week.

By day's end, the Dow had swung 631.86 points from its low point to its high—the largest single-day turnaround in more than five years.

"You might say this is a belated reaction to what the Fed did this week, compounded by hopes for the Fed to do more next week," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Avalon Partners.

The Dow had plunged more than 465 points just after the opening bell Tuesday as the market digested news of the rate cut. But stocks rallied to finish down just 128, then tacked on a 2.5-percent gain on Wednesday.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished the day up 298.98 at 12,270.17. It had been down 323.29 at its low point.

The swing from negative to positive territory of 631.86 points was the largest point move since July 24, 2002, according to Dow Jones Indexes. The largest intraday point swing, a metric that Dow started calculating in 1995, was a 721-point swing on April 14, 2000.

"Volatility is certainly the norm now and not the exception," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at Jefferies & Co.

He noted that all but two trading days this year had seen triple-digit swings in the Dow, three of them 300 points.

On Wednesday, traders who bet on the Fed's target fed funds rate were pricing in a 100 percent chance of a 0.50-percentage-point cut by the central bank when it meets next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rate cuts are designed to stimulate borrowing and, in turn, business activity and the overall economy. They also will eventually boost profit margins for banks and other lenders, which have been working to lower costs and raise cash levels through layoffs and stock sales after having lost billions of dollars to bad mortgages and mortgage-related investments.

AP

Trader Daniel Ryan laughs as he works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008. Wall Street pulled off a stunning comeback Wednesday, surging higher in late trading and wiping out what looked to be yet another precipitous decline.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

EBay CEO Whitman to step down March 31

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Meg Whitman will soon step down as chief executive of eBay Inc., the online auction company that went from wobbly startup to multibillion-dollar household name in her 10-year tenure. Whitman, 51, had been reported to be plotting the move and handing the job to John Donahoe, 47, who has been heading eBay's core auction and e-commerce businesses. She confirmed her March 31 departure as eBay reported fourth-quarter earnings Wednesday. Whitman will remain on eBay's board of directors. The San Jose-based company said that in the last three months of 2007, it earned $530.9 million, or 39 cents per share. In the same period a year earlier, eBay earned $346.5 million, 25 cents per share. Revenue in the quarter rose 27 percent to $2.18 billion.

Sallie Mae lost $1.6 billion in 4Q

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sallie Mae, the embattled student lender, said Wednesday it lost $1.6 billion in the fourth quarter as borrowing costs rose and it set aside $575 million to cover bad loans. To address the growing number of delinquencies and defaults on loans not backed by the government, Sallie CEO Albert Lord said the company is shying away from lending to students it considers unlikely to graduate or attending schools with inferior graduation rates. Sallie also reported Wednesday that the Securities and Exchange Commission has asked for information concerning its public disclosures around the time of stock sales by its executives and board members.

Bleak outlook sends Motorola plummeting

CHICAGO (AP)—Motorola Inc.'s new CEO Greg Brown spooked investors Wednesday with a gloomy assessment of the cell phone maker's inability to turn around its ailing handset division, saying a recovery will take longer than expected. Shares nose-dived more than 23 percent to a 4 1/2-year low on the company's outlook for worse-than-anticipated first-quarter results and Brown's acknowledgment that Motorola is short on promising new products. Motorola also reported results from the fourth quarter that were about as weak as analysts had feared, with net profit falling 84 percent and mobile phone sales down 38 percent.

Oil falls on concerns demand will fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Crude oil futures skidded lower Wednesday, falling more than $2 a barrel to their lowest closing price in three months on concerns that oil supplies are growing even as the economy and demand for oil are cooling.

Global stock markets have fallen sharply in recent days on fears that the U.S. economy is close to entering a recession, if it hasn't already. Energy investors fear a slowdown would curtail demand for oil and petroleum products such as gasoline and heating oil.

Meanwhile, domestic oil inventories likely grew last week by 1.8 million barrels, according to the average estimate of analysts surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires. Supplies of gasoline and heating oil also likely rose. The Energy Department's Energy Information Administration will issue its weekly inventory report on Thursday this week, a delay of one day due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery fell $2.22 to settle at $86.99 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange Wednesday. Oil last closed below $87 a barrel on Oct. 23.

The Federal Reserve's decision Tuesday to slash its benchmark fed funds rates by three-quarters of a percentage point to 3.5 percent has done little to limit declines in oil prices. While the Fed is expected to cut rates further next week, many investors remain worried about whether the cuts will stave off recession.

Toyota falls short of GM in global sales

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota said Thursday it sold 9.366 million vehicles last year globally, about 3,000 vehicles fewer than the tally from General Motors, allowing the U.S. automaker to retain its crown as the world's No. 1 automaker.

All year long, the two automakers raced neck-and-neck in global sales, highlighting Toyota's phenomenal growth and the struggles facing GM and other American automakers.

Toyota had said as late as Wednesday that its annual total was 9.37 million vehicles, up 6 percent from 2006. GM said Wednesday in Detroit its global sales had risen 3 percent to 9,369,524 vehicles, making for a race that appeared too close to call.

AP

A Toyota logo is seen in a Land Cruiser in the atrium lobby at Toyota North American headquarters in Torrance, Calif., Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008.

But Toyota Motor Corp. spokesman Paul Nolasco in Tokyo confirmed the extra digit in Toyota's sales Thursday, showing that GM's total was narrowly higher. General Motors Corp. has been the world's top seller for 77 years.

Despite the intense interest in their rivalry, both companies have played down the numbers games.

Toyota executives have repeatedly expressed worries about a possible backlash if they dethrone GM, an American icon. The Japanese automaker has been setting up more plants in North America and has tried to show it's a good U.S. corporate citizen.

Nolasco refused to comment on GM's retention of the No. 1 title. But he said Toyota sees sales growth as a reflection of how people recognize its products.

"We would like to become No. 1 in quality in product offerings and services, carefully making good products, and give true happiness to our customers," he said.

Passion is the key to a better job

By MOLLY SELVIN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

First in a two-part series.

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to find a better job—or just find a job—you have lots of company right now.

January is historically a peak hiring month. Many businesses operate on a calendar year budgeting cycle, so now they have money to fill vacancies or expand.

Now could also be the time to land your dream job. But first you have to know where to look and what to look for.

Is that too obvious? The country's job-finding experts say it isn't.

"There's a huge disconnect in society when it comes to thinking about careers," says Elliott Brown, founder of Springboard Forward, a Belmont, Calif., nonprofit that provides career-planning services to low-income workers.

"Our parents were told that you went to school and then you made a career choice," he says, and that was it. And for generations an American worker could expect to be hired and retired by the same employer.

But the economy—not to mention individuals' attention spans and expectations—has changed. Today, someone will go job hunting at least eight times in his or her life, writes Richard Bolles in his classic career-seekers guide, "What Color Is Your Parachute?"

The disconnect is that many Americans don't understand or don't want to believe that. The truth is that it's not only a good idea periodically to reassess your skills, interests and goals, but it's also imperative to stay marketable. You should think of your career-search process as a long-term journey, Brown advises, with sojourns along the way.

How to discover a passion that pays? Read on for tips and we'll help you land your next job.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Susan W. Miller, founder of California Career Services, meets with client Geoffrey Bickham.

WHAT TO DO FIRST

There's little mystery here, experts agree. You have to be honest with yourself—about your skills, what you like to do and (most important) what you don't like to do.

Susan W. Miller, founder of California Career Services, asks employed clients a seemingly simple question: When you're having a good day at work, what exactly are you doing?

She follows up with: Among all the things that you do every day at work, what do you do best?

Next, take this test:

■ Interview people who know you well. They can help sort out what truly engages you and what turns you off. They may have insights about vocations you never imagined and could remind you of important truths about yourself. If you struggle with percentages or the concept of compound interest flummoxes you, a career in finance is probably not your best bet no matter how passionate you are about making a lot of money.

■ Investigate jobs you think would suit you. Don't just imagine that you would enjoy being a paralegal; talk to a paralegal.

■ Intern or volunteer to test your conclusions. Internships aren't only for young people. If those positions aren't available, companies are sometimes happy to take on unpaid workers for special assignments. Or a paralegal might let you shadow her for a day.

This can help validate your research and give you experience and contacts to "pivot into a new occupation," says Mark Oldman, co-founder of Vault, a business information firm.

He recalls a banker who dreamed of a radio career, interned as a disc jockey and loved it so much that she quit banking for a full-time job on the air.

Perhaps the most important tip of all: Set realistic expectations. Finding the career path that's right for you could easily take six months.

BOOKS

Bookstores stock shelves of career-planning volumes and new ones come out all the time.

"What Color Is Your Parachute?" published in 1970, remains a bestseller, and author Bolles has spun off other titles aimed at teens and retirees.

Other sellers include "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Changing Careers," "The Vault Guide to Schmoozing," "Why You Can't Be Anything You Want to Be" and "Passion and Purpose: How to Identify and Leverage the Powerful Patterns that Shape Your Work/Life."

There are guides for young adults, mid-career workers, women and workers with disabilities, for people interested in health care, event planning or finance, for fashionistas, bookworms, film buffs or people who care about the environment. There are volumes for English majors, sociology majors, math geeks and on and on.

Should you read all of them? Or any of them?

Don't feel overwhelmed. The best advice is to browse and pick and choose. When you're on the road to self-discovery, detours can be valuable—and free of charge with a library card.

Many of the books include exercises designed to tease out your strongest interests, like these from "What Color Is Your Parachute?"

■ Draw a picture of your ideal life. With colored pencils on a big sheet of white paper, sketch pictures or symbols to depict where you want to live and with whom, what your house or apartment would look like, and so on.

"The power of this exercise is sometimes amazing," Bolles writes, because it forces you to think more creatively.

■ Think of everyone you know, have seen on television or have read about, and ask whose job would you most like to have? You might surprise yourself.

WEB SITES

You don't have to look hard to find career help on the Web.

Many authors operate companion sites for their books with tests, checklists, diagrams and links to courses and resources to help you find your path.

"I became enormously frustrated that people live paycheck to paycheck with no passion," says Nicholas Aretakis, who wrote "No More Ramen" and runs nomoreramenonline.com. He calls it "the twentysomething's real world survival guide."

Cued to young people struggling to "find themselves" as they leave college or their parent's orbit, the Web site is sprinkled with anecdotes, "to do" lists and advice, including the pros and cons of grad school and how to become a Supreme Court justice.

"If you were a jock in college," Aretakis says, "you may not make the PGA or the LPGA, but you could market yourself to sports-apparel companies."

Along the same lines, job search sites such as www.monster.com and www.careerbuilder.com offer free assessment tests, articles on careers, research on hot jobs and bits and pieces about job training.

The "My Interest Finder" quiz on the californiacolleges.edu site asks you to rate how much you would enjoy conducting a symphony or performing hospital nursing duties or mapping the ocean floor. Other exams assess values important to you and match them with possible careers.

But if you're honest with yourself and pay attention, you can learn something from almost any self-examination no matter how silly the questions might seem.

Consider these examples from the Princeton Review:

■ I would rather be a wildlife expert, or I would rather be a public-relations expert.

■ I would rather be a company controller, or I would rather be a TV anchor.

■ I would rather be an auditor, or I would rather be a musician.

The government can help too. Check out the Labor Department's Web site (www.dol.gov) and the one for California's Employment Development Department (www.edd.ca.gov/eddjs.asp#ExploreCareerOptions). On the latter, Web surfers will find data on labor market trends and answers to questions like:

■ What kinds of businesses hire the job that I'm looking for?

■ What jobs use the skills I have now?

■ Where can I get training to get a better job?

The site poses one other key question: What jobs will be in demand in the future?

COUNSELORS

Forget your high-school guidance counselor; career advisers have gone upscale.

Private counselors, who work out personalized plans for each seeker, may charge hourly fees of up to $200. Their services can include assessment tests, job market research, resume help and coaching sessions to calm interview jitters. Many nonprofit counseling agencies charge less than private firms.

The career centers at virtually every college and university are gold mines for befuddled students and alumni.

"You have no idea how many lawyers I see walk in my door saying, 'I'm done,'" says counselor Deborah Campbell at Los Angeles Trade Technical College. Ditto for burned-out nurses.

Like many counselors, Campbell asks the people who come to her: What do you like to do in your spare time? What was your favorite class in school?

At Springboard Forward nonprofit counselors, clients attend workshops to create career maps. These don't necessarily include a destination, but they have what Brown calls "the components"—skills, interests, dreams—of what he reminds clients is going to be quite a trip.

"I tell people to relax," Brown says. "It's going to be a long journey."

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Blank screens coming to analog TV sets

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

If you get TV reception from rabbit ears or an antenna on your roof, the free analog signals that your TV has been grabbing out of the airwaves will no longer exist after February 2009. The government, with the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005, is requiring that all television broadcasting of analog signals cease then. After that date, to get any reception on your older analog TV, you'll need a converter box.

To help with the transition, the government has started the TV Converter Box Coupon Program. The coupons, worth $40 each, will help defray the cost of the converter boxes, which are expected to cost approximately $50 to $70 each. Each household is allowed two coupons, and you have to apply for them.

A massive campaign is currently under way, and will continue right up until February 2009. To encourage people to get their coupons now, it's said that there are a limited number of coupons. The problem is that the coupons are only good for 90 days, and consumers are being forced to make fast decisions.

There are two ways to look at it:

1) It's a long time until February 2009. By then your analog TV might need replacing and you'll end up buying a new digital TV anyway. And surely, knowing that millions of people will be shopping for new ones, televisions during the 2008 holiday season will be on sale at good prices.

2) You might want to go ahead and get a converter because it's supposed to help you get more channels and better reception.

One thing is for certain: By February 2009, your old analog TV won't get any channels. You'll either end up buying a new digital TV, hooking up to satellite or cable service—or getting a converter box for your old set.

For information or to order your coupons, call 888-388-2009.

Go to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Web site (www.ntiadtv.gov) for a list of converter boxes that are eligible under the coupon program, as well as a list of retailers who are authorized to sell them. You can also get an application for the coupon at www.dtv2009.gov, or request the coupon by mail: P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Doc charged with theft from elderly mom

NEW YORK (AP)—A physician was accused Wednesday of stealing his 94-year-old mother's life savings of more than $800,000 after taking control of her finances through a power of attorney, leaving her virtually impoverished. "He took pretty much all that she had," Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said Wednesday when he announced the indictment of Dr. Robin Motz. Motz's mother, Minnie, now lives on a small pension and Social Security, Morgenthau said. Motz, 68, was accused of stealing $832,453 from his mother after taking over her finances in 2003. Morgenthau said Motz spent the money on flat-screen TVs and other luxuries; travel to the Bahamas, Mexico and Hong Kong; and on his vacation house in Hillsdale, N.Y.

Incubator fire badly burns Minn. newborn

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Oxygen ignited inside a special hood worn by a prematurely born infant in a hospital, burning the boy's head and face and leaving him in critical condition. The newborn was lying in an open-topped bassinet under a warmer at Mercy Hospital in suburban Coon Rapids on Tuesday when the accident happened, Allina Hospital and Clinics said in a statement. The baby was wearing an oxygen hood, a device that fits over the face to supply additional oxygen, when something caused the gas to ignite, the statement read. Nurses who were with the baby immediately put out the fire, Allina said. Authorities were investigating how the fire started.

US commander orders plans on Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The commander of U.S. forces in Central Asia has launched planning for more extensive use of U.S. troops to train Pakistani armed forces, a senior defense official said Wednesday. Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of U.S. Central Command, issued a planning order, an internal instruction to lower-level commanders, to propose ideas for a long-term approach to helping Pakistan combat what has become an expanding, homegrown insurgency that threatens the stability of the government. Fallon's intent is to develop new approaches to help Pakistan, with a time horizon stretching to 2015, the official said.

Woman indicted in Tahoe tree cutting

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A woman has been indicted on charges alleging she had three large trees up to a century old cut down on sensitive federal land near Lake Tahoe to improve her view, prosecutors said Wednesday. Officials said they weren't aware of any similar federal prosecutions. Patricia M. Vincent, 58, was indicted last week on charges of theft of government property and willingly damaging government property. If convicted, she faces up to 10 years in prison and a $250,000 fine for each count. The three ponderosa pines stood on a plot the U.S. Forest Service had designated as environmentally sensitive as part of a water quality plan to help protect the clarity of Lake Tahoe. The trees were estimated at 80 to 100 years old; trees that age would be at least 2 feet in diameter at the base of the trunk.

6 killed, including 4 kids, in Ohio fire

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP)—A house fire killed four children, their mother and grandmother early Wednesday, officials said, and authorities arrested an 18-year-old man in the blaze hours later. Michael Davis, of Youngstown, was charged with six counts of aggravated murder and six counts of aggravated arson, city police said. It wasn't immediately clear whether Davis had an attorney or whether he knew the victims. The fire killed 46-year-old Carol Crawford, her 23-year-old daughter, Jennifer and Jennifer Crawford's daughters Raneija, 8; Jeannine, 5; Aleisha, 3; and 2-year-old son Brandon, said Rick Jamrozik, an investigator with the Mahoning County Coroner's office.

Big Dig contractors to settle for $458M

BOSTON (AP)—Contractors will pay more than $450 million to settle the state's lawsuit over a fatal tunnel collapse and to cover the costs of leaks and design flaws in the Big Dig, officials said Wednesday. Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff, the consortium that oversaw design and construction of the nation's costliest and most complex highway project, has agreed to pay $407 million, U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan said in announcing the deal. Several smaller companies will pay about $51 million collectively.

Bill Clinton: Race, gender key in SC

DILLON, S.C. (AP)—Bill Clinton said Wednesday he expects blacks to vote for Barack Obama and women to vote for Hillary Rodham Clinton, and the dynamic may cause his wife to lose the South Carolina Democratic presidential primary Saturday.

The comments by the former president—who also lashed out at Obama and the news media—mark one of the starkest commentaries yet on the possible role of race, although it has been a subtext of the Obama-Clinton rivalry for months. The comments also furthered the Clintons' bid to play down Sen. Clinton's chances of winning in a state where Obama seems to be ahead.

Voting for president along racial and gender lines "is understandable because people are proud when someone who they identify with emerges for the first time," the former president told a Charleston audience while campaigning for his wife.

His comments and later outburst came on a day when Obama continued to challenge Hillary Clinton's candor and trustworthiness, saying the New York senator has indulged in double-talk on bankruptcy laws, trade and other issues.

The atmosphere grew more charged after Clinton's campaign aired a radio ad in South Carolina suggesting Obama approved of Republican ideas. Obama responded with his own radio spot that says, "Hillary Clinton will say anything to get elected."

Questions about the candidates' honesty and consistency have been paramount since Monday's testy presidential debate involving Obama, Clinton, and former senator John Edwards. Obama, campaigning all week in South Carolina, is portraying Sen. Clinton as an old-school politician willing to shade the truth.

AP

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., waves during a rally in Salinas, Calif., Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008.

Agreement closer for economy rescue pact

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pushing deficit concerns aside, Democratic and Republican leaders moved closer to agreement with the White House Wednesday night on emergency tax cuts and benefit increases to jolt the economy out of its slump, including opening new financing windows for some home loans.

Congressional leaders were to negotiate into the evening with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, underscoring the urgency of the effort.

Lawmakers learned during the day that the government's deficit already would swell to $250 billion this year because of falling corporate tax revenues—then they signaled they were willing to balloon it higher by more than $100 billion with a stimulus package.

As they met behind closed doors, Wall Street defined volatility, dropping again for most of the day before soaring to a big gain just before closing. The Dow Jones industrials ended the day up just under 300 points.

The federal deficit, which has been dropping in recent years, could reach $379 billion for 2008—more than twice last year's red ink—once the costs of the economic rescue measures are factored in, said House Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt Jr., D-S.C.

"We should act, and act now, to strengthen the economy ... mindful, however, of the long-term budget challenges, the structural deficits that we face unless we act and act seriously," Spratt said.

President Bush expressed optimism about quick action.

Drought could force nuke-plant shutdowns

LAKE NORMAN, N.C. (AP)—Nuclear reactors across the Southeast could be forced to throttle back or temporarily shut down later this year because drought is drying up the rivers and lakes that supply power plants with the awesome amounts of cooling water they need to operate.

Utility officials say such shutdowns probably wouldn't result in blackouts. But they could lead to shockingly higher electric bills for millions of Southerners, because the region's utilities may be forced to buy expensive replacement power from other energy companies.

Already, there has been one brief, drought-related shutdown, at a reactor in Alabama over the summer.

"Water is the nuclear industry's Achilles' heel," said Jim Warren, executive director of N.C. Waste Awareness and Reduction Network, an environmental group critical of nuclear power. "You need a lot of water to operate nuclear plants." He added: "This is becoming a crisis."

Doctors report transplant breakthrough

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In what's being called a major advance in organ transplants, doctors say they have developed a technique that could free many patients from having to take anti-rejection drugs for the rest of their lives.

The treatment involved weakening the patient's immune system, then giving the recipient bone marrow from the person who donated the organ. In one experiment, four of five kidney recipients were off immune-suppressing medicines up to five years later.

"There's reason to hope these patients will be off drugs for the rest of their lives," said Dr. David Sachs of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, who led the research published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Since the world's first transplant more than 50 years ago, scientists have searched for ways to trick the body to accept a foreign organ as its own. Immune-suppressing drugs that prevent organ rejection came into wide use in the 1980s. But they raise the risk of cancer, kidney failure and many other problems. And they have unpleasant side effects such as excessive hair growth, bloating and tremors.

AP

Los Angeles patient Derek Besenfelder, a public relations director for a plastic surgery clinic, holds his hands close to the position of his "third kidney" in Beverly Hills, Calif. Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008.

Asia

Retired generals tell Musharraf to go

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—An influential group of former military officers called on Pakistan's embattled president to step down, a move that could further undermine the U.S.-allied leader ahead of parliamentary elections next month.

A statement by the Pakistan Ex-Servicemen's Society blamed President Pervez Musharraf for the current crisis in the country and said the former army commander no longer "represents the unity and the symbol of the federation as president."

"This is in the supreme national interest and it makes it incumbent on him to step down," said the statement signed by more than 100 former generals, admirals, air marshals and other retired officers and enlisted men. It was issued after a meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday of the association's leadership.

Musharraf was commander of the army until stepping down last month.

The society normally limits itself to dealing with pensions and other issues relating to retired military personnel and does not speak for serving officers. Its tough stance is an embarrassment to Musharraf as he travels around Europe seeking support for his government.

Musharraf

"The feeling was unanimous and strong among the (retired) officers and other ranks that Musharraf is the problem and that he is a source of divisiveness ... and an impediment to democracy," said Talat Masood, a retired general who is now a prominent political analyst.

"He is bringing down the reputation of the army, and undermining its support among the people which it needs in the war on terror," said Masood, who attended the meeting. "He has brought disgrace on all ranks."

In November, Musharraf purged the Supreme Court just as it was poised to declare his recent re-election illegal and briefly suspended the constitution.

Musharraf, a top U.S. ally in its war on terrorism, led a military coup to seize power in 1999, but retired from the army before being inaugurated for a new five-year term as civilian president in November.

Despite his imposition of a state of emergency and the arrests of thousands of opposition party activists, lawyers and judges, Washington has continued to praise Musharraf, saying he is committed to restoring democracy through the parliamentary elections.

Philippines says: No more workers sent to Jordan

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has imposed an indefinite ban on the deployment of workers to Jordan because of growing reports of maids being mistreated and abused there, officials said Wednesday.

The ban took effect Monday on the order of Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, said Rosalinda Baldoz, head of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

"I received an order to stop the deployment of (workers) to Jordan and this is because of the growing number of Filipinos in distress," Baldoz told a press conference.

She said the country's labor attaché in Jordan has reported that some 120-150 Filipino workers, mostly maids, have fled their employers and sought refuge at a Philippine-run center in Amman. Their complaints include nonpayment of wages, mistreatment and rape.

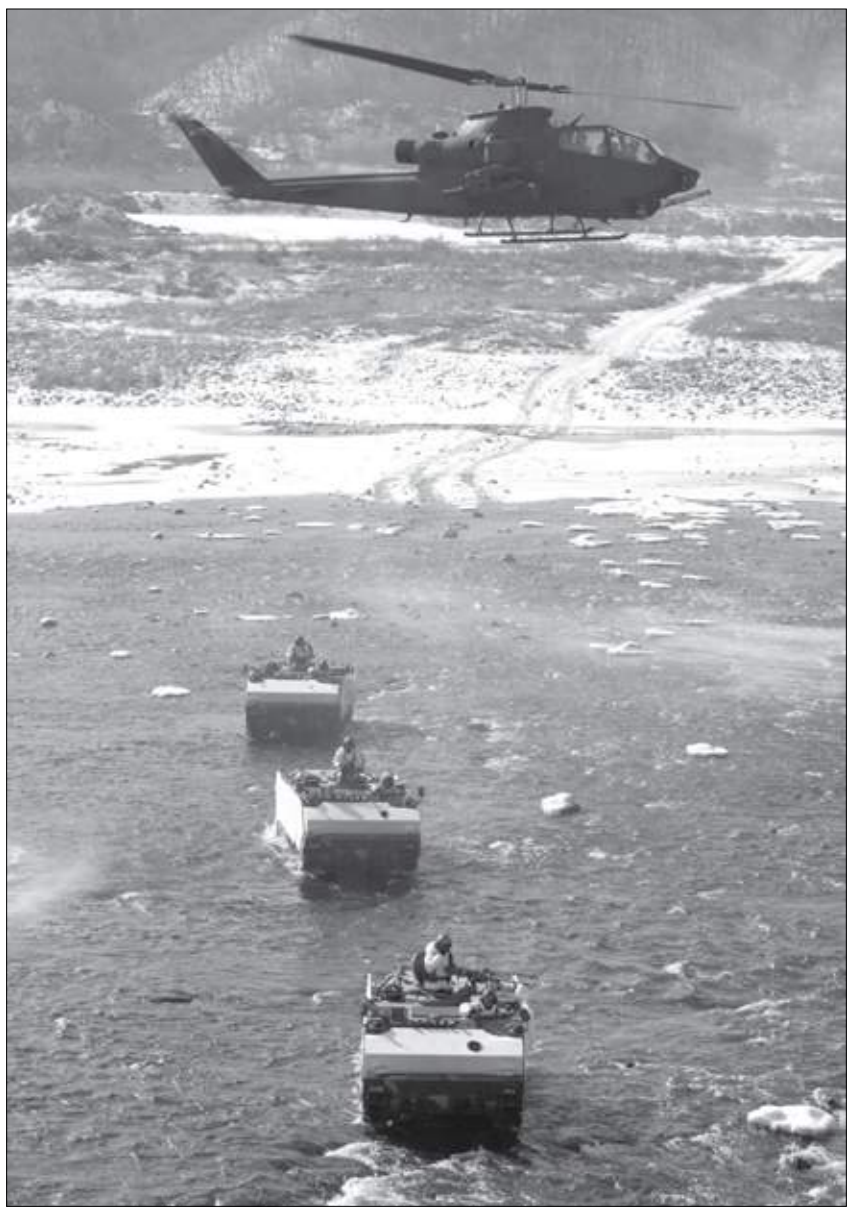
The ban is only for newly hired workers and does not apply to workers returning to "good-standing" employers in Jordan, Baldoz added.

In Jordan, Majed al-Habashneh, secretary-general of the Labor Ministry, told The Associated Press that the ministry was not officially informed of the action being taken. Al-Habashneh said the Labor Ministry is in constant contact with the Philippine Embassy via joint committees that deal with worker problems in Jordan.

There are 16,274 Filipinos currently working in Jordan. Some 8 million Filipinos—or nearly 10 percent of the Philippines' population of about 90 million—work overseas.

From January to November last year, Filipino workers sent home US$13.1 billion (€9.04 billion). Total remittances for 2007 are projected to reach US$14.3 billion (€9.87 billion), according to the central bank.

Aside from Jordan, the Philippines has also banned the deployment of workers to Nigeria, Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan.


KOREAN TALKS AP

South Korean armored vehicles cross the Imjingang River during their winter exercise to prepare for any surprise attacks by North Korea, near the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas in Yeoncheon, north of Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008. North Korea and South Korea will hold working-level military talks this week, the South's Defense Ministry said Wednesday, a move that dispels some speculation that the North may suspend inter-Korean talks.

Attacks on Afghan students up sharply

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The number of students and teachers killed in Taliban attacks has tripled in the past year in a campaign to close schools and force teenage boys to join the Islamic militia, Afghanistan's education minister says.

While the overall state of Afghan education shows improvement, Education Ministry numbers point to a sharp decline in security for students, teachers and schools in the south, where the Taliban thrives: The number of students out of classes because of security concerns has hit 300,000 since March 2007, compared with 200,000 in the previous 12 months, while the number of schools closing has risen from 350 to 590.

The Taliban strategy is deliberate: "to close these schools down so that the children and primarily the teenagers that are going to the schools—the boys—have no other option but to join the Taliban," Education Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday.

The Taliban know that educated Afghans won't join the militants, so a closed school leaves students with two options—to join the Taliban or "to cross the border and go into those hate madrassas," Atmar said, referring to Islamic seminaries in Pakistan where "they will be professionally trained as terrorists."

ASIAN BRIEFS

China calls for stepped-up propaganda

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese President Hu Jintao has told officials to breathe new life into propaganda efforts, putting renewed emphasis on a key pillar of Communist rule ahead of this summer's Beijing Olympic Games. Hu's remarks at a major party gathering reflected the government's traditional focus on controlling information and guiding public opinion, yet also indicated concern that those efforts were losing their edge in the face of the Internet and other independent sources of information and entertainment. Officials should "perform well the task of outward propaganda, further exhibit and raise up the nation's good image," Hu said.

Japan navy resumes anti-terror mission

YOKOSUKA, Japan (AP)—A Japanese navy destroyer departed Thursday to resume the country's anti-terror mission in the Indian Ocean after a divisive battle in parliament caused a three-month suspension. The destroyer Murasame left this port south of Tokyo, to be joined later by a tanker. The ships' refueling mission, in support of U.S.-led forces patrolling the Indian Ocean, was to begin in two to three weeks. Japan had refueled ships since 2001 in support of U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan, but was forced to abandon the mission last fall when the resurgent opposition blocked an extension.

S. Koreans decry worst-ever oil spill

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Thousands of angry South Korean fishermen and residents of villages devastated by the country's worst oil spill scuffled with riot police Wednesday during a demonstration demanding quick compensation for their losses. About 3,700 protesters were blocked by police as they tried to march from a rally site outside Seoul's main railway station to the nearby headquarters of the Samsung Group to demand that the conglomerate, whose barge hit a supertanker to cause the spill, fully compensate the victims. About 7,000 riot police wearing helmets and carrying shields blocked the demonstrators from marching, surrounding them with police buses.

Suharto health further deteriorates, infection spreads

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The health of former Indonesian dictator Suharto has deteriorated, with a potentially lethal infection spreading through his body, his doctors said. Suharto, 86, who brutally ruled the nation for 32 years until being toppled a decade ago by a pro-democracy uprising, has developed digestive trouble and severe pneumonia, said Dr. Joko Raharjo, a member of the presidential medical team. Suharto, who was rushed to a hospital with anemia and a dangerously low heart rate Jan. 4, has suffered multiple organ failure and is on a ventilator, dialysis machine and is being fed through a tube.

Thaksin's wife faces charges in Thailand

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—The wife of deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said Wednesday that her husband will return home from self-imposed exile in May to face corruption charges.

Pojamarn Shinawatra made the statement when appearing before the Supreme Court on charges that she used her husband's political influence to buy prime Bangkok real estate from a government agency at a third of its estimated value.

Shinawatra

Pojamarn returned to Thailand earlier this month in a trip Thaksin said was to prove their innocence and clear the family's name. He was toppled in a bloodless military coup in 2006, with opponents accusing him of massive corruption and abuse of power.

Pojamarn's return and Thaksin's potential return have added tension to Thailand's unsettled political situation, in which Thaksin's followers have formed a coalition government following their victory in general elections last month.

Pro-Thaksin stalwart Samak Sundaravej is expected to be named prime minister Friday amid opposition from the military and anti-Thaksin activists who led mass demonstrations prior to the coup.

Thaksin, who resides mostly in London, has given several different dates for his return home. Most recently he said he was "considering" a comeback in April.

He has vowed to stay out of politics but said he is ready to serve as an adviser to his allies in the People's Power Party, which Samak heads.

Pojamarn Shinawatra, during the brief hearing Wednesday, pleaded not guilty and asked the court for 90 days to prepare documents and witnesses to buttress her defense. The court set the next hearing for April 29.

World

Explosion kills 17 in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A thunderous blast tore through a vacant apartment building in northern Iraq on Wednesday, killing at least 17 civilians and wounding more than 130 in adjacent houses just minutes after the Iraqi army arrived to investigate tips about a weapons cache.

Rescue crews searched under toppled walls, collapsed ceilings and piles of debris tossed by the explosion that blew apart the empty building, which Iraqi authorities said was used by insurgents to stash weapons and bombs.

The hunt through the wreckage stretched for hours, raising the possibility the final casualty toll could climb. The huge blast went off just after the troops arrived, and no soldier was reported killed.

Instead, the explosion ravaged dozens of old homes and collapsed a three-story building in a mostly Sunni neighborhood in Mosul, about 225 miles northwest of Baghdad.

The blast also reinforced U.S. claims this week that Mosul—Iraq's third-largest city—is now the last urban center with a strong presence of al-Qaida in Iraq. American and Iraqi forces have been on the offensive against insurgents in and around Baghdad, but Mosul continues to be a center of gravity for al-Qaida in Iraq, according to the military.

Mosul, a major transportation hub with highways leading west to Syria and south to Baghdad, is considered a crucial conduit in the flow of money and foreign fighters to support the insurgency.

The city's internal tensions also provide fertile ground for al-Qaida among fellow Sunni Arabs. Extremists apparently seek to exploit ethnic tension between majority Sunnis and minority Kurds, who together form about 85 percent of Mosul's population of roughly 2 million.

Wednesday's explosion came shortly after the army received calls that insurgents were using the vacant building as a shelter and a bomb-making factory, according to Brig. Saeed al-Jubouri, a police spokesman.

That raised the possibility that insurgents may have tried to draw the soldiers into a trap.

But Brig. Abdul-Karim al-Jubouri, who heads security operations for the Mosul police, said authorities did not believe they were being lured. He said that—if it were designed as a trap—insurgents would have waited for security forces to get inside the building to kill as many of them as possible.

7 die in Polish military plane crash

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A military plane carrying 18 officers and crew crashed Wednesday in northwestern Poland, killing at least seven people, officials said. The officers had been attending a flight safety conference in Warsaw.

The plane was approaching an air base at Miroslawiec shortly after 7 p.m. when it crashed, Maj. Bogdan Ziolkowski, a spokesman for the base told The Associated Press.

Fourteen passengers and four crew were on board, said air force spokesman Col. Wieslaw Grzegorzewski.

Emergency services spokeswoman Monika Bak said seven people died. Grzegorzewski said some people were killed, but did not provide a number.

The aircraft, a CASA C-295M military transport plane, was about 1 mile from the airstrip when it clipped trees on its approach, crashed into a wooded area and burst into flames, Ziolkowski said.

"We don't know what the cause of the crash was right now," Ziolkowski said.

He added that the passengers were officers attending an annual one-day conference in Warsaw on air safety.

The plane had more people on board when it took off from Warsaw, but had already landed at three other military airports. It had two more planned stops in Swidwin and Krakow.

Polish media were describing the accident as one of the worst military disasters in more than three decades. President Lech Kaczynski was cutting short a visit to Croatia to return to Poland on Thursday, a spokesman said.

Apparent suicides shock Welsh town

BRIDGEND, Wales (AP)—There is a deepening sense of foreboding and hopelessness in this South Wales market town as the number of young people who have killed themselves keeps rising. The death toll now is seven.

The rash of deaths—and front-page news stories about other young people whose suicides were prevented by last-minute intervention—seems to be the only topic under discussion in the cafes and shops of this former coal mining community of 40,000.

"People are saying it might be some sort of cult, but we don't know," said Luke Wills, 25. "There is something amiss, but we don't know what."

Police say there appears to be no common link between the deaths. But at least one newspaper published a photograph of two of the dead together, fueling speculation of suicide pacts struck among friends linked by Internet social networking sites.

"It's nothing like that. What people are saying is not true," said Alicia Johns, a friend of 17-year-old Natasha Randall, who was found dead last week.

AP

Palestinians walk with goods as they crowd at a destroyed section of the border wall as travel between Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, and Egypt Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008.

Gazans flood Egypt after border breach

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—On foot, in cars and in donkey carts, tens of thousands of Gazans flooded into Egypt on Wednesday through a border fence blown up by militants—puncturing a gaping hole in Israel's airtight closure of the Gaza Strip and giving a boost to Hamas.

In a shopping spree that was both festive and frenzied, Gazans cleared out stores in an Egyptian border town, buying up everything from TV sets to soft drinks to cigarettes.

As waves of people swarmed through the destroyed barrier—some estimated the crowd in the hundreds of thousands—Egyptian security forces lined up on one side of the border and Hamas forces lined up on the other side. None of them interfered in any way, and it appeared Hamas militants actively participated in the border breach.

That breach, though likely temporary, seemed certain to strengthen Hamas in its showdown with Israel, the West and its Fatah rivals—relieving some of the pain of an international blockade of the Gaza Strip following Hamas' violent takeover of the coastal territory in June.

It also raised Israeli fears of an influx of weapons and militants to Gaza and threatened to undermine crucial Egyptian participation in a Mideast peace push by President Bush.

Official reaction to the day's events ranged from dismay to embarrassment to outright anger.

The United States expressed concern about the border breach. Israel demanded that Egypt take control of its border. Hamas called on its rivals to help come up with new arrangements for Gaza's crossings.

WORLD BRIEFS

Crisis hurts Israeli-Egypt ties

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—The flood of Palestinians out of Gaza is fraying relations between Israel and Egypt—ostensible partners in peace but now bitterly at odds over the border chaos—undercutting the chances that President Bush's Mideast initiative will succeed. The scenes of Palestinians rushing to buy food and other goods Wednesday at the Egyptian border town of Rafah emphasized a core dilemma: The parties pushing for peace, including Israel, Egypt, the United States and moderate Palestinians, have never figured out a unified way to deal with Hamas, the militant Palestinian group that seized control of Gaza eight months ago. All sides view the current situation, with Hamas in control of Gaza and thus of one side of the Gaza-Egyptian border, as unsustainable.

Mexico arrests man in border agent death

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican authorities said Wednesday they had arrested a man in northern Mexico in the weekend killing of U.S. Border Patrol agent Luis Aguilar. Jesus Navarro Montes, 22, was arrested in the northern state of Sonora on Wednesday, said a spokesman for Mexico's federal Attorney General's office who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with department policy. Navarro was transported to the city of Mexicali in Baja California after he told Mexican authorities he ran over Aguilar on Saturday, the spokesman said. Aguilar was trying to stop a suspected smuggler who had illegally entered the country from Mexico when he was hit by the vehicle, according to Agent Michael Bernacke, a spokesman for the agency's Yuma sector.

Karzai warns of spreading terrorism

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—Afghanistan's president warned Wednesday that the whole world could suffer from the "wildfire" of terrorism engulfing his region, a grim message for a meeting of political and business leaders already fretting over the threat of global recession. Formally opening the World Economic Forum, Hamid Karzai gave a sobering rundown of recent attacks attributed to Islamic extremists—among them the assassination of Benazir Bhutto and bombings in Afghanistan and Pakistan that have killed hundreds, including many children. With militant violence still on the rise in the two nations six years after the ouster of the Taliban, "it seems like the mutant of extremism is dangerously unleashed across the region," Karzai said. The trend "bodes terribly badly for the whole world," he said.

Iran reformers barred from vote

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—More than 2,000 reformers seeking democratic changes within Iran's hard-line ruling establishment have been disqualified from running in the upcoming parliamentary elections, a top interior ministry official said Wednesday. The disqualification of reformist candidates removes challenges to hard-liners—including those allied with embattled President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad—vying for the parliament seats in the crucial March 14 election. Parliamentary elections are seen as a key test of Ahmadinejad's hold on power and a harbinger for the 2009 presidential elections. The hard-line president has come under increasing criticism—from both allies and opponents—about his failure to fix Iran's economic problems, which have most recently led to heating gas shortages.

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Women spot 'unencumbered' motorist

WEST FRANKFORT, Ill. (AP)—Word that a man was caught driving in the buff through town has Mayor Marion Presley hustling to get the real skinny out about the Illinois community: West Frankfort is not a nudist colony. Police arrested Justin Flora, 34, of Marion, Ill., on Monday and charged him with two counts of public indecency after several female motorists reported him driving without a stitch of clothing. Police Chief Jeff Tharp says Flora said he just liked to drive unencumbered to check out the ladies. Tharp says Flora insisted he didn't mean to offend any one in the southern Illinois town of 8,200. Flora doesn't have a listed home telephone number and couldn't be reached for comment.

Man accused of soiling laundry room

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Repeated discoveries of human feces in clothing and other items left in an apartment building's basement laundry room led to charges Thursday against a 19-year-old man. Authorities said Ronnie A. Ballard was arrested after a woman whose laundry had been soiled chased him back to his apartment in an adjoining building. Residents also reported finding feces in shoes and boots in an apartment hallway and in washing machines where it soiled a comforter, baby clothes and other items that had to be thrown out. Ballard was charged with three counts of disorderly conduct, three counts of criminal damage to property and one count of bail jumping. Court records showed he also is facing charges of lewd and lascivious behavior in Waukesha and Lincoln counties. Ballard was jailed in lieu of $1,400 bail.

Pair accused of stealing, eating pet dog

HONOLULU (AP)—Two former golf club employees are charged with theft and cruelty to animals in the death of a pet dog the owners say was cooked and eaten. An Oahu grand jury indicted Saturnino Palting, 58, and Nelson Domingo, 43, both of Kalihi. They were accused of stealing a dog owned by Frank Manuma who lost his 8-month-old German shepherd-Labrador mix named Caddy. Manuma had taken Caddy to the Moanalua Golf Club with him on Dec. 16 and left the dog tied up at an equipment shack when he disappeared. Manuma said police told him the two men slaughtered and ate the pet belonging to him and his wife, Debbie Weil-Manuma. The charges are both felonies punishable by up to five years in prison and a $10,000 fine.

Man allegedly offers cop $5 for hit

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (AP)—An man is accused of offering an undercover officer $5 and 90 pills of the painkiller Oxycotin to kill a woman. Robert Macklin, 35, faces one count of first-degree assault or one count of the alternative charge of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder. He was charged Wednesday in Jackson County Circuit Court in Independence. According to court documents, Macklin's roommate called police after he repeatedly asked her to kill the girlfriend of a man with whom he once had a relationship. The roommate said Macklin wanted the girlfriend out of the way so the men could be together. Macklin was arrested Tuesday night after he reportedly gave the officer $5 as a down payment. Prosecutors have requested a $500,000 bond.

Unsuccessful robber shoots self in foot

CHERRYVILLE, N.C. (AP)—Authorities said an unsuccessful robber shot himself in the foot ... by shooting himself in the foot. Police said Kelvin Ethelbert Roberts, 28, botched his plans to rob a Cherryville convenience store by accidentally shooting his right foot. According to an arrest warrant, Roberts dropped a .45-caliber handgun in front of Gasland USA on Sunday. The gun hit the ground and went off, a bullet striking Roberts in the foot. Roberts faces several charges that include attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon and possession of a weapon of mass destruction. Police said the handgun had been altered to fire .410 shotgun shells. Authorities said Roberts was in illegal possession of the gun because of his felony cocaine possession conviction in 2002 in Chautauqua County, New York.

Thieves crash car with cow in back seat

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Thieves in Malaysia stole an adult cow, squeezed it into the back seat of a car and drove off with it, but abandoned the animal when the getaway vehicle crashed into a tree, police said Thursday. The cow, injured in the crash, was slaughtered by villagers. The thieves managed to push the cow into the back of a mid-sized sedan Tuesday night, but were spotted by villagers who gave chase, said a local police official in the northern state of Kedah. He declined to be named, citing protocol. The driver lost control during the chase and drove into a tree, injuring the cow, he said. By the time villagers got to the crash site, one person was seen running from the car, but police believe more people were involved in the theft, the official said. It was not clear how they managed to push the cow into the car or whether the animal had been sedated.

Cat stowaway makes it home again

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Some kitty math: How many lives did little tabby Gracie Mae use up when she crawled into her owner's suitcase, went through an airport X-ray machine, got loaded onto a plane, thrown onto a baggage belt and mistakenly picked up by a stranger far from home?

"She's got to be at four or five now," Seth Levy said after his 10-month-old pet was returned Sunday night by a kind stranger who went home to Fort Worth, Texas, with the wrong bag and Gracie inside to boot.

The last time Levy's wife, Kelly, saw Gracie was before she took her husband to the airport. The 24-year-old went back to her house in Palm Beach Gardens late Friday to find the bottom step, where Gracie would usually be waiting, empty.

She tore the house apart looking for the cat, who had been spayed just days before. She and her dad took out bathroom tiles and part of a cabinet to check a crawl space and papered the neighborhood with "lost cat" signs.

Then she got a phone call.

"Hi, you're not going to believe this, but I am calling from Fort Worth, Texas, and I accidentally picked up your husband's luggage. And when I opened the luggage, a cat jumped out," Kelly Levy quoted the caller saying.

Rob Carter said he made it home with the suitcase before realizing it wasn't his—and there was a big surprise inside.

"I went to unpack and saw some of the clothes and saw it wasn't my suitcase," he said. "I was going to close it, and a kitten jumped out and ran under the bed. I screamed like a little girl."

AP

Seth Levy, of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. holds his 10 month old cat, Gracie Mae at home in Palm Beach Gardens, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008.

Carter said that he eventually was able to get the cat to come out from under the bed.

"In the morning, I got close enough to see its collar and the phone number on it," he said. "So I called the number and got a hold of the crying wife of the traveler."

The tabby made the 1,300-mile trip home on an $80 plane ticket. Carter said he considered keeping the cat before he knew she had a home.

"We were going to name it Suitcase," he said.

Cat's caterwauling may have saved family

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)—A cat's caterwauling during a pre-dawn house fire may have saved the lives of five family members, a firefighter said.

There were no injuries, but Wednesday's fire destroyed the garage, a Jeep parked in the garage and a second-floor bedroom at Warren and Diane Busscher's home in Allendale, about 15 miles west of Grand Rapids, said Lt. Michael Keefe of the Allendale Fire Department.

Keefe said the couple and their three children were sleeping when Diane Busscher awoke to hear the family's black cat howling and screeching from the garage, where it spends its nights. She went to investigate her pet's cries.

When the woman opened the door to the garage, smoke started pouring inside, so she grabbed the cat and ran back through the house, waking up everyone and telling them to go outside. The home had working smoke detectors that apparently were not set off until the family was outdoors, Keefe said.

"Their statement to me is that the smoke detectors did not go off until they were outside," he said.

The fire department, which was dispatched to the scene shortly before 5 a.m., was trying to determine the cause of the fire. It originated in the garage but apparently was not started by the cat, Keefe said.

Telephone calls to the Busschers' house were met with busy signals.

Woman to take 55,000 pennies to the bank

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP)—Vicki Armstrong has been saving her pennies for almost 19 years and she was making plans this week to cash them in at a bank—all 55,000 of them.

She knows the $550 won't make her rich, but says the symbolism reinforced frugal spending habits. "It helped me be a little bit more conservative in my lifestyle," said Armstrong, who is planning to retire at the end of the year from Christus Schumpert Highland Hospital, where she works as a maternity technician.

Armstrong has been storing pennies in vases, bowls and the occasional shoebox. In 1993, The (Shreveport, La.) Times reported she had squirreled away 14,000 pennies. Armstrong resisted the temptation of cashing them in and kept saving.

Her co-workers and friends have chipped in over the years. "They all hand over pennies generously," she said.

Her husband, Melvin, said he's never interfered with her healthy obsession and confessed that even their bicycle rides have been interrupted by tiny treasure hunts.

"She would see a penny in the road and just stop. I would to have to do circles just to let her catch up."

So, that's where the money came from?

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A $469,000 payroll error at a New Jersey company has earned an Illinois man a date with police. Anthony Armatys of Palatine, Ill., was arrested Wednesday on theft charges after allegedly receiving electronic payroll bank deposits from a New Jersey company he never worked for, authorities said.

Officials at Avaya Inc., a telecommunications provider located in Basking Ridge, discovered checks had been mistakenly direct deposited into his account for nearly five years, according to the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office.

Armatys, 34, had accepted a position with Avaya years ago, authorities said, but he rescinded the acceptance before he ever started working. However, a system error resulted in checks being deposited into Armatys' bank account from the fall of 2002 to March of 2007, when the company discovered the error, officials said.

During that time, Armatys collected more than $469,000 in pay and even withdrew approximately $1,900 from his company retirement account administered by Fidelity Investments, authorities said.

Science & Technology

Virgin Galactic unveils spaceship

NEW YORK (AP)—A select group of rich tourists may be blasting into space within a few years in a craft that looks like a cross between a corporate jet and something out of science fiction.

British billionaire Richard Branson and the aerospace designer Burt Rutan unveiled a model Wednesday of SpaceShipTwo, the vehicle they hope will be able to take passengers about 62 miles above Earth for the fun of it, with test flights possibly beginning this year.

"Breathtakingly beautiful," was Branson's assessment of the ship, now under construction at a hangar in the Mojave Desert.

Speaking to reporters at the American Museum of Natural History, the pair also showed off a model of the big, four-engine jet that will help launch the craft into space.

The twin-fuselage airplane, called the White Knight Two, will carry SpaceShipTwo high into the sky beneath a single 140-foot wing.

The spacecraft, with short wings, a pair of rotating tails and plenty of 18-inch portholes, would then separate from the plane and rocket into space—where as many as six passengers and two crew members could unbuckle themselves for a little while and experience weightlessness and an unparalleled view before gliding back to Earth.

Passengers would get about 4 1/2 minutes of zero-gravity time, floating about a cabin roughly the size of a private jet with the floor removed, before buckling themselves back in for the descent. The seats in the craft will lay passengers nearly flat to put less stress on their bodies and give them more room to float while they are in space.

Will Whitehorn, president of Branson's space tourism company, Virgin Galactic, said construction on the White Knight Two is already more than 70 percent complete.

SpaceShipTwo is about 60 percent complete, and the company and Rutan's aerospace outfit, Scaled Composites LLC, hopes to begin test flights this summer.

About 200 prospective passengers from 30 countries have made reservations, shelling out $200,000 apiece. Many were in attendance for Wednesday's presentation, including Ken Baxter, 58, of Las Vegas.

AP

British billionaire Richard Branson, left, and the aerospace designer Burt Rutan unveil a model of SpaceShipTwo, right, the vehicle they hope will be able to take passengers on suborbital joy-rides, just for the fun of it, with test flights beginning as soon as this year, during a news conference in New York, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008. At top is a model of White Knight Two, the mothership for Space Ship Two, which is now under construction at a hangar in the Mojave Desert.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
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Q: My McAfee firewall wants to know if it should block or unblock something named "BackWeb-8876480." What is this?

A: BackWeb is a software component that other programs use to check for and download updates to themselves. Kodak and Logitech, for example, install BackWeb alongside the programs they provide to operate their digital cameras, mice and webcams.

The confusion in this case can be blamed on all the parties involved. On one hand, the firewall software that flagged this program should have reported that BackWeb is a known application from a real company.

On the other hand, whenever and however BackWeb was added to the computer, the installer should have clearly indicated it, so a user wouldn't be surprised to see this vaguely named application later on.

Both Kodak and Logitech have had to write tech-support articles explaining that BackWeb is not a harmful component, so you have to wonder why they went to the trouble of adding this extra layer of software. Logitech's notice offers one possible reason: Its installation of BackWeb delivers not just software patches but also "product promotions."

■■■

Q: Is there any other way to "right-click" on a Mac laptop besides holding down the Ctrl key while you press the trackpad button?

A: If you have a MacBook or MacBook Pro, you can turn on a nifty shortcut. Open System Preferences, click "Keyboard & Mouse" and click the Trackpad heading. Click the checkbox next to "Tap trackpad using two fingers for secondary click" (if you use Mac OS X Tiger) or "For secondary clicks, place two fingers on the trackpad then click the button" (in Leopard). Now you can right-click single-handed.

Consumer technology tips

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Computers are no different from closets, bookshelves or pantries: They accumulate old, unwanted purchases. A program that you no longer need will only take up valuable disk space, as well as a spot in Windows' Start menu or a Mac's Applications folder. So every few months, inventory the software on your machine, decide which programs you still need and get rid of the ones you don't. On a Mac, you usually only need to drag unwanted programs' icons to the Trash, but in Windows you'll need to open the Control Panel and click "Add or Remove Programs" to uninstall excess applications. A system-cleanup application such as the free CCleaner (ccleaner.com) can help find any program leftovers that uninstallers didn't clean up: Click the "Registry" button, let it scan your system and click the "Fix selected issues..." button.

■■■

If you must take a laptop on a trip, you can use that as a charger for other portable devices: Many cell phones, handheld organizers and digital-music players can recharge their internal batteries over a USB connection to a computer. This will take longer than a regular wall charger, but you won't have to carry around a set of look-alike AC adapters. You'll only need a few USB cables, or just one cable if your devices all feature the same mini-USB connector. Just verify that all of your gadgets can replenish their batteries in this fashion before you leave — and, of course, make sure you don't forget to take the laptop's power adapter with you, either.

Q and A: Macworld

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Excerpts from a recent Washington Post online reader chat with columnist Rob Pegoraro about the Macworld Conference & Expo, which ended Thursday.

Q: How does an OLED display look in person?

A: The main thing you notice about one of these (organic light-emitting diode) displays is how thin they are. We're talking fractions — low fractions — of an inch, as if you could hang the TV on a wall with a regular picture hook. OLED screens are also supposed to offer better contrast and response times than LCD. But OLEDs are also hideously expensive compared to LCDs and come only in small sizes. They have had lifespan issues, too — one reason why almost all of the OLEDs in use today are in cell phones, which will conk out before the screen ever can.

■■■

Q: For my money, Time Capsule was the best new product announced. Apple had this feature (wireless backups) in developer seeds of Leopard. You could use a regular airport with a USB drive. They took the feature out before Leopard shipped, citing problems with it. Now that Time Capsule exists, people are wondering if that feature will be added back, or if they just took it out to make people buy their new product. ... Will people with regular airports soon re-gain this ability back in Leopard?

A: Time Capsule intrigues me, too. The pricing is surprisingly reasonable; factor in the cost of a regular AirPort Extreme base station, and you're paying only $120 for half a gig of "server-grade" storage. (Please set aside for a moment the fact that I can't tell exactly what makes a drive "server grade")

■■■

Q: Yes, the MacBook Air is impossibly small, but is there any other appeal for it? It's too big to be a UMPC, and too small to replace a desktop (or a functional laptop). It's not feasible for many college dorm rooms (where wireless isn't always available) and I have a tough time finding 80GB HD (or the $3,000 64GB!) being enough space for today. Plus, the speaker output is mono.

A: You're thinking about the MacBook Air as a primary computer, but that's not how Apple has designed it, I think. I see it as a secondary machine for use on the road. Buying one of these would be like buying some two-seat roadster as a second car.

■■■

Q: How hot does the MacBookAir run? Can you actually keep it on your lap while it runs?

A: Not hot at all. I picked up one of the demo units on the Macworld floor, expecting the underside to be scorching. It was barely lukewarm, even right by the cooling vents and where the power cord attaches, two of the usual hot spots on a laptop.

■■■

Q: Two weeks ago (I spent) over $4000 for a Power Mac and 23-inch monitor. I really wanted the quad-core processors, but because they were a $1,500 upgrade, I settled for the standard dual-core processors. Less than a week later, Apple released a new version of the Power Mac with an extra gig of memory, a larger hard drive, a better video card, *and* quad-core processors for virtually the same price as I paid for my now obsolete computer. ... Nobody informed me that the new models were coming out in less than a week. Other Mac owners have told me that Apple doesn't even inform its vendors of upcoming model upgrades. Consequently, I don't even know if my beef is with my local vendor or with Apple. Do I have any recourse?

Q: Go to your local Apple Store and ask to talk to the manager. They do cut the occasional deal. ... As a general rule, you should be wary about buying Apple products right before Macworld, especially if the product in question hasn't seen an update in a while. There's always something new at Macworld. ... (Apple) doesn't just keep customers in the dark about this kind of news; a huge chunk of its own employees don't know either, which most definitely includes everybody at an Apple Store

■■■

Q: Apple offers a 14-day price protection, and will either update your now-old Mac Pro or give you some portion of the difference back. ... Apple folks have a reputation for being flexible if you're a few days past, if (big "if") you keep your cool and are polite.

A: More good advice.

■■■

Q: The new Mac has flash memory and no hard drive. How much safer is that from failure, and do we still need a backup?

A: The MacBook Air comes with the option of flash memory. The standard storage is an 80 GB hard drive, the same size as what comes in an iPod classic. Flash memory is a lot more stable than a hard drive; without any moving parts inside it, you can't have a drive crash. But remember, it's inside a small, easily carried device — there are ways to lose data that don't require any sort of mechanical failure.

Life & Style

Ledger had 6 types of prescription drugs

NEW YORK (AP)—Six different types of prescription drugs were found in Heath Ledger's apartment—including anti-anxiety medications and sleeping pills—though the cause of his death won't be known for several days after a preliminary autopsy Wednesday was inconclusive, authorities said.

A rolled-up $20 bill was also found on the floor near the Australian actor's bed, but lab tests detected no traces of drug residue. Police also said no illegal drugs were found in the apartment.

Among the prescription medications found were pills to treat insomnia and anxiety, and an antihistamine, according to two law enforcement officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing. Three of the drugs were prescribed in Europe, the sources said.

The $20 bill was found on the floor near Ledger's bed, NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said lab tests found nothing to indicate it had been used to snort drugs.

The Australian-born actor was found dead Tuesday by his housekeeper and a massage therapist—lying naked and face-down on his bed, police said. The pills were found in bottles in Ledger's bedroom and bathroom, and police said the death was caused by a possible drug overdose and appeared to be accidental.

Ellen Borakove, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office, said the autopsy on the 28-year-old actor was inconclusive and that more would be known in about 10 days, when more tests were completed.

Police said Ledger probably died Tuesday between 1 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. At 1 p.m., the housekeeper went into his bedroom to change a light bulb, saw him sleeping and heard him snoring.

At 2:45 p.m., the massage therapist showed up for Ledger's appointment, knocked on his door and got no answer. She later noticed Ledger was unconscious and called Mary Kate Olsen, whose number was programmed into Ledger's cell phone, to seek advice.

Olsen said she would send over her private security. In the ensuing moments, the massage therapist realized that Ledger might be dead, and called 911. Paramedics—and Olsen's security people—arrived minutes later.

News of the death stunned family, fans and colleagues.

"Working with Heath was one of the purest joys of my life," said Ang Lee, who directed Ledger in "Brokeback Mountain." "He brought to the role of Ennis more than any of us could have imagined—a thirst for life, for love and for truth, and a vulnerability that made everyone who knew him love him. His death is heartbreaking."

Lee Daniels, who produced the critically acclaimed "Monster's Ball" in which Ledger starred, strongly disputed any notion that Ledger had a drug problem.

"The definition of substance abuse is really up to one's perspective," Daniels said. "I didn't see him as a drug addict. I saw him as someone who enjoyed life. I know drug addicts, he was not a drug addict."

AP

This undated promotional photo shows actors Jake Gyllenhaal, left, and Heath Ledger in a scene from "Brokeback Mountain."

He said he saw Ledger a couple months ago and that he was in great spirits. "He was in a good mood, he was in a great place ... he was excited about living in New York."

Before moving to Manhattan, Ledger lived in Brooklyn with then-girlfriend Michelle Williams in a four-story, sage-green brownstone with a black wrought-iron fence. Yellow tulips with red stripes were among the bouquets left by well-wishers Wednesday.

At the Brawta Caribbean Cafe two blocks from the residence, owner Jennifer Ewers said was a frequent guest who always ordered jerk chicken, rice and beans, and sorrel.

"He was a perfect gentleman. He comes in here with his hoodie on, reads a book, and gives you a peace sign," she said. "He was always with his daughter, playing hide-and-seek among the plants, or on his skateboard, peeking his head in."

Speaking in Australia, Ledger's father called the death "tragic, untimely and accidental."

"Heath has touched so many people on so many different levels during his short life," Kim Ledger said. "Please now respect our family's need to grieve and come to terms with our loss privately."

Fans left flowers and candles Wednesday outside Ledger's apartment in the tony SoHo neighborhood of Manhattan on Wednesday. Khaled Ali, 41, a stage manager for a Broadway show, dropped off a candle on his way to work, saying he and fellow cast members were devastated.

"I felt a connection with him as an actor, as a fellow in the theater community," he said. "With `Brokeback Mountain' he touched me personally in telling the story of my community. It was very touching."

Ledger was known for grueling, intense roles that became his trademark after he got his start in teen movies like "10 Things I Hate About You." Thereafter, he avoided the easy path in favor of roles that forced him to bury his Australian accent and downplay his leading-man looks: the tormented gay cowboy Ennis Del Mar in "Brokeback Mountain"; a drug addict in "Candy"; an incarnation of Bob Dylan in "I'm Not There."

Playing the Joker in the upcoming Batman movie "The Dark Knight," may be his final finished performance.

Ledger split last year with Williams, who played his wife in "Brokeback." The two had a daughter, the now 2-year-old Matilda. Early Wednesday, Williams and Matilda left Trollhattan, Sweden, where the 27-year-old actress had been shooting scenes for the upcoming film "Mammoth," said Martin Stromberg, a spokesman for film production company Memfis Film.

"She received the news at her hotel late last night," Stromberg said, adding he had not spoken to the actress after she learned of Ledger's death.

The actor's personal strife was accompanied by professional anxiety. He said in a November interview that "Dark Knight" and "I'm Not There" took a toll.

"Last week I probably slept an average of two hours a night," Ledger told The New York Times. "I couldn't stop thinking. My body was exhausted, and my mind was still going." He said he took two Ambien pills, which only worked for an hour.

A day after Ledger's death, at least six TV satellite trucks were parked on the block or around the corner from his Manhattan apartment, with a stream of TV reporters doing their standups. There were bouquets, letters and candles piled in front of the building.

A handwritten letter on plain white paper anchored by votive candles read:

"Heath, how could anyone hate 10 things about you. We couldn't find one bad thing about you. God bless your soul, you're in our prayers."

Masseuse who found Ledger dead called Olsen

NEW YORK (AP)—A massage therapist who discovered a lifeless Heath Ledger in his Manhattan apartment made her first call to Mary-Kate Olsen, according to an in-depth timeline police released Wednesday of the moments surrounding the Australian-born actor's death.

Police said Ledger probably died sometime between 1 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. on Tuesday of what authorities say may be an accidental drug overdose.

Authorities found six different types of prescription drugs in Ledger's apartment, including pills to treat insomnia and anxiety, according to two law enforcement officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing. Three of the drugs were prescribed in Europe.

Ledger's housekeeper, Teresa Solomon, arrived at his apartment with her own key and let herself in. At 1 p.m., she went to his bedroom to change a light bulb, and saw Ledger sleeping and heard him snoring. She left the room without thinking anything was wrong.

AP

Actress Mary Kate Olsen arrives at the 7th on Sale dinner gala to benefit the fight against HIV and AIDS at the 69th Regiment Armory, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007 in New York.

At 2:45 p.m., massage therapist Diana Wolozin showed up for her appointment with Ledger, who didn't answer when she knocked on his door. She then tried to call him on his cell phone, but again got no response. She went into the bedroom, set up her massage table and again tried to wake Ledger.

Wolozin told police that Ledger was cold to the touch, but she just assumed he was unconscious. She proceeded to grab his cell phone and call Mary Kate Olsen, whose number is programmed into the phone. Wolozin knew that the "Full House" star and Ledger were friends, and she asked Olsen for advice on what she should do next.

Olsen, who also lives in Manhattan but was in California at the time, responded by saying she would send over her private security guards to help deal with the situation. In the ensuing moments, Wolozin realized that Ledger might be dead, and called 911.

The emergency operator provided Wolozin directions on how to do CPR, but it was too late.

Paramedics arrived minutes later—at about the same time as Olsen's security guards.

Numerous messages left at telephone numbers listed to Wolozin and Solomon were not returned Wednesday.

Bush cancels event after Ledger's death

WASHINGTON (AP)—The death of Heath Ledger prompted the White House to postpone President Bush's event Wednesday promoting an ad campaign aimed at preventing prescription drug abuse.

Ledger, 28, who was nominated for an Oscar for "Brokeback Mountain," was found dead Tuesday in his New York apartment. There were sleeping pills near him, but the cause of his death remains under investigation.

The president was to make a statement in the Roosevelt Room on the Office of National Drug Control Policy's television advertisement about preventing prescription drug abuse. A federally financed study released in December at the White House showed illicit drug use by teens continued to gradually decline overall this year, but the use of prescription painkillers remained popular among young people.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said Bush's event had been scheduled for a while.

"We thought it would be better to postpone the event rather than run the risk of anyone thinking that we were being opportunistic in highlighting the issue," she said.

In Celebration Of Her New Life

Rosa Taman Maliti-Fejeran

"Litefanguusch"

passed away in the grace of our Lord on January 22, 2008, at the age of 72.

In her eternal life she now joins her:

Husband: Isidro Tydingco Fejeran
Parents: Elias Olopai Maliti &
Clara Somorang Taman Camacho
Ramon Rios Camacho
Reared Sister: Veronica Satur Igisomar
Son: Joseph Phillip Maliti Fejeran
Granddaughter: Allison Colleen Nepaial
Parents In Law: Jose Cruz Fejeran & Maria Tydingco Fejeran
Brother in Law: Luis I. Rangamar
Zacarias O. Igisomar
Sister In Law: Natividad F. & Zacarias Tudela

She will always live in the hearts of her children:

Elias M. & Bernie D. Fejeran; Joseph, Emelaine, Elisa, Elias Jr.
Juannet DLG. Fejeran & Joe Duenas; Eddie John & Makiko, Cassandra & George (Bianca), Rose Marie & Shan (Makaily, Joenet), Joenie & Brian
Carmen F. & Cho Dae Soo
Pedro M. & Keisha Fejeran; Awi, Carmelita, Estherlita, Iouana Rose
Francisca M. Fejeran & Jeff Robinson; Richard & Kimberly (Cheryl Mo'ika), Robert, Wyane, Sharlyn, Renall
Rosalina M. Fejeran & Ray Ruluked
Esther F. & Alfonis Sound; Angel
Clarissa M. Fejeran & Watson Sam; Boleen, Lance Dale, Beverleen
Isidora F. & Levaula Tasi; Rex & Valencia (Siana Dorene), Leon & Gina (Tasiaeafe,Bruce Uitime), Seipepa, Uitime
Reared Daughter: Domaita Sablan Aidel
Siblings & Spouse: Lourdes M. Rangamar, Ursula & Conrad Tinio, Vicente & Rita Camacho, Maria & William Wanket, Rosario & Michael White, Francisca & Bernard Keremius
Brother in Laws and Spouses: Raymond & Edith Fejeran, Benigno & Neng Fejeran, Moses & Ana Fejeran, Felipe & Carmen Fejeran
Sister In Laws: Maria S. Fejeran , Sophia M. Fejeran
Promised Sisters: Dicta Tenorio, Pamela Tenorio, Diann Domingo

She will always be remembered by numerous aunties, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.

Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:30 p.m., at the residence of Esther & Alfonis Sound located in DanDan. On Tuesday, January 29th 2008, her remains will be taken from CHC at 3:00 p.m. to the residence.

Viewing and last respect will be at the residence the following day at 8:00 a.m. Responso service will be at 10:00 a.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Burial Rites will be at Mount Carmel Cemetary immediately after mass of Christian Burial.

Please Join us in prayers.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway, Thank you

Children

Mother

She's sweeter than the fragrances
That fill the well in spring
A joy she is above the joys
That all the years can bring.

She's dearer than the dearest friend
That I will ever know,
Her prayers even guide me on
No matter where I go.

Her face is burrowed deep with cares
Her hair is streaked with gray,
And rosary beads slip through the hands
That first joined mine to pray.

And through the years have dimmed those eyes
That were so lustrous fait,
'Tis death alone can take away
The love-light shining there.

At night when kneeling down to pray
I thank our Lord above
Who was good to give me
My mother's deathless love.

Katherine Heigl:
A puff of fresh air in Hollywood

By WILLIAM BOOTH
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Katherine Heigl stars in the romantic comedy "27 Dresses." LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—She enters the room in a knit that fits, the kind of dress with a place for everything. Lipstick the color of a valentine. The doors to the balcony are thrown open and she exhales, "Great, I can smoke," and pulls one from the pack and you think, *carbon monoxide might not be so bad.* She was raised Mormon, but she's drinking coffee by the gallon, and for the next hour Katherine Heigl is happy to ride the buzz and talk about raunchy jokes, humorless shrews and God's infinite mysteries.

Heigl, 29, might be the new It Girl. She was just on the cover of Vanity Fair, where she continues to scandalize the town by having opinions. She stars in "27 Dresses," opening nationwide Friday, about a plainish Jane who is forever the bridesmaid, never the bride. It's Heigl's first traditional romantic comedy, if you don't count "Knocked Up" as a traditional romantic comedy because it is filthy (it also did $148 million in domestic box office). Heigl is also Dr. Isobel "Izzie" Stevens on the top-rated "Grey's Anatomy," a role that won Heigl an Emmy.

She's striking a lighter. "It's so stupid. I started when I was like 22 or 23, and I had my first cigarette at a bar one night, and I was like *mmm.*" She makes a nice *mmm* face. "I'll try this. I can have just one. I am not gonna get addicted. Then you start bumming. I'm bumming. I don't buy my own packs. I'm not addicted.

"Then you go through something that is hard or difficult or stressful and you buy your first pack and it's all over," Heigl says. Kids—please, pay attention. "And now it's all about how you're going to quit," she says. "I've tried everything."

She issues a throaty, delicious, precancerous laugh.

She mentions that her good friend T.R. Knight, who plays fellow intern George on "Grey's Anatomy," quit smoking recently. How proud she is.

Knight, you may recall, was reportedly subjected to a homosexual slur by fellow thespian Isaiah Washington in an on-set altercation (hissy fit) with co-star Patrick Dempsey. Washington denied uttering the slur, but while denying it (in front of reporters at last year's Golden Globes), he used the word again (a classic). At the time, an exasperated Heigl told "Access Hollywood" that Washington "needs to just not speak in public." In Entertainment Weekly, she called him "thoughtless and boneheaded." Washington was relieved of his duties. And suddenly, Heigl became known as a gal with opinions (vs. the usual blank stare), though the label really says more about the blandness of most entertainers, because, after all, what did Heigl really do but suggest that you shouldn't call people names, especially at awards shows?

Heigl has been in the business a long time. A child model, then child actor, then teen actor. She starred in "Bride of Chucky" and "Under Siege 2: Dark Territory." She did a lot of mediocre TV movies.

After graduating from a Connecticut high school, Heigl and her mom drove west. "We put all our (stuff) in the car, and the dog, and us, and I had really high hopes." She laughs. "And it was nothing like what I thought it would be. Nope. L.A. is a totally different universe. It's a beast."

Hollywood has a kind of default setting when confronted with an actress such as Heigl, she says. "You're the blonde," she says. "Or the cheerleader. Or the girl friend. It would have been really easy to fall back on the blonde and the bra size and just do that for the rest of my career."

This whole time you're living with your mother?

She relights. Her hair is a freshly fluffed pillow. "We lived in an apartment in Woodland Hills for a couple years. Then Mom bought a house in Calabasas. I was her roommate and I paid rent, or whatever, but no matter, you're still living in your mom's house. You're still following her rules. By about 22 I realized I should probably be doing some of this on my own. ... It was actually very hard and scary for me. I think my mother was more relieved, and I was clinging to what I knew."

Her mother, Nancy Heigl, is also her business partner and manager. "I've always respected my mother, her intellect, her savvy, her courage. I haven't met that many people like my mother."

The key to their success? "There was never a time in her life when my mother ever wanted this—this profession—for herself. So there's no agenda. There's no living vicariously through me," she says. "Here's someone who's not going to sell me down the river."

When "Knocked Up" was released, Heigl suggested that her character, Alison Scott, was the stiff, tense, overachieving shrew to Seth Rogen's fun-loving boy-man. Heigl suggested it was, you know, a little sexist, maybe, that the guys get all the jokes, and the gals are always the buzz kill.

She remembers on the set of the film there "were a lot of moments where I screwed up takes because I was laughing so much. Their humor, however raunchy and base it is, really, I love that humor. But I couldn't play the girl who thought they were funny. I had to play the girl who was telling them to grow up!"

The nag. "Uggg," she says. "I hate the nag. Most of my friends are funny, witty, intelligent and beautiful women, so it's not that unusual, a pretty girl being funny, is it? But for some reason in this town, they really like to compartmentalize, so you're either the character actor who is funny or you're the pretty girl in the movie."

We wonder whether they also treat Heigl like a Mormon. Apparently not. "If I were a still super-practicing strict Mormon, then people would be a little more cautious around me, but unfortunately I'm fairly vulgar, and I smoke and I drink coffee and I drink alcohol and I love to talk about religion."

Heigl's family converted to Mormonism when she was 7, after her brother was killed while riding in the back of a pickup truck. "It's one of those religions that don't really fit into Hollywood," she says. "But it did a lot to save our family."

How so? "What appeals to me is that love goes on and continues. It doesn't mean that after death it's the end of this person you loved and cherish. Because then you're living in a world of what the hell is the point? ... I've always thought that there is a beautiful balance within the Mormon religion, where they believe in some very solid answers, but there is also a lot left unknown. There aren't answers in this lifetime."

Does she still go to church? "I haven't gone in really long time," Heigl says, but "we still pray over our meals. I still say a prayer every night before I go to bed. I talk to God all the time. He doesn't really talk back all that much. But every once in a while I get an inkling of something. Atheists or agnostics can tell me I'm crazy and it's just my safety blanket ... Why not? Why should I live my life afraid and alone if I found something that comforts me?"

Heigl turns to her assigned subject: weddings. Which reminds her of when she lost a role in "Wedding Crashers" and thought her career had stalled. "I was just about to call it quits," she says. Instead she got hired for "Grey's Anatomy."

Oh, and she's also getting married herself, to singer-songwriter Josh Kelley. (They would wed on Dec. 23 near Park City, Utah).

Now she's talking about her new comedy, "27 Dresses," and mulls the question of why her character, Jane, is such a doormat.

"Jane wants to be the victim. It's much safer for her to be put upon than to actually go after what she wants and fail," she says. Then she quotes Dr. Phil in saying that "you teach people how to treat you."

Jane does everything for everyone else. "I almost felt like Jane was the villain," Heigl says, and that is an interesting idea. "It was important to me for her not to be too much of the victim. This girl had some edge. She had some reasons."

Heigl waves her arm in the air. "But it's a romantic comedy. It's a real chick flick. It's the kind of movie I love and try to go see every chance I can get. But you know," she says, and you've got to like this part, "there's not a ton of profoundness about it."

Britney gets to courthouse, leaves

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears bolted from the courthouse Wednesday before setting foot in her child-custody hearing, which went on without her—and ended with a court commissioner upholding an order suspending her visitation rights.

The pop star came to the courthouse to seek visits with two little boys, entered the building and went through security screening. But she suddenly stated that she wanted to leave and was driven away, Superior Court spokesman Allan Parachini said.

Upstairs, Commissioner Scott Gordon went ahead with a closed hearing, and "notice was taken of Miss Spears' absence," Parachini said. Spears' lawyer argued that she be allowed to have visits, and ex-husband Kevin Federline—who showed up for the hearing—was asked a few questions that required yes or no answers, Parachini said.

In the end, Gordon made no change to the order suspending her visitation rights. The hearing was not scheduled and Spears was not ordered to be there, Parachini said.

Spears, 26, and Federline, 29, are battling over sons Sean Preston, 2, and Jayden James, 1. It was the second time this month that Spears pulled a disappearing act at the courthouse in her custody battle with her ex-husband.

Earlier this month, Gordon suspended Spears' visitation rights and gave full custody to Federline, then kept that order in effect during an emergency hearing last week. That time, Spears was driven into the civic center garage but decided to leave.

The hearings followed a bizarre early January standoff at Spears' home when she refused to return the boys after a visit and was briefly hospitalized.

On Wednesday, Gordon called the Spears case at about 9:15 a.m., allowing Spears' attorney, Anne Kiley, to go out and try to find her client. Kiley returned about 20 minutes later and Gordon called the matter again.

"Is your client present?" he asked Kiley.

"No, she's not," the lawyer replied.

"Is she going to be present?" the commissioner asked.

"I don't know," Kiley said.

The commissioner then said there were motions filed by both sides but he didn't indicate what they were. Federline was sworn in as a witness and Kaplan asked that the courtroom be cleared of spectators and the press.

Spears evaded swarms of paparazzi by arriving and leaving through a basement parking garage under the courthouse.

She wore bright lipstick, sunglasses, gold platform shoes and a very short black cocktail dress with a ruffled hem. Federline, clad in a tan suit and open-necked shirt and sporting a mohawk haircut, arrived a half hour before Spears.

The next hearing is set for Feb. 4, at which time Spears' attorneys will ask permission to withdraw from the case. A hearing on custody is set for Feb. 19.

A custody trial is set for April. Federline's attorney, Mark Vincent Kaplan, noted outside court that the commissioner has ordered a custody evaluator to report back to him before the trial.

AP

Italian fashion designer Valentino, center, meets with unidentified people after the presentation of his Haute Couture Spring-Summer 2008 collection, in Paris Wednesday Jan. 23, 2008.

Designer Valentino bids adieu to fashion

PARIS (AP)—Italian designer Valentino bid adieu to fashion with a star-studded haute couture show in Paris on Wednesday, ending a 45-year career that saw him dressing luminaries from Jacqueline Kennedy to Julia Roberts.

Celebrities, socialites and fashion editors gave the 75-year-old couturier a rousing standing ovation as a smiling Valentino took his bow, flanked by dozens of models dressed in identical gowns in his trademark shade of red.

"I am extremely happy," he told reporters backstage. "That is why I am not emotional, because I feel very strong and to have this demonstration of affection, of love, of such generosity—I really am on cloud nine!"

Actresses Uma Thurman and Lucy Liu joined supermodels Claudia Schiffer and Eva Herzigova at a tent in the Rodin Museum to watch a parade of the stunning evening gowns that have made Valentino king of the red carpet.

"I'm sad to see it end," Thurman said.

Dresses were draped, shirred and flounced in liquid silk and featherlight organdy. White goddess gowns were set off by sparkling rhinestones, while day suits came in sherbet shades of lemon, almond and apricot.

It was an object lesson in style from the designer who has never strayed from his mantra: Keep a woman looking her best.

Seamstresses from Valentino's couture workshop in Rome, dressed in white laboratory coats, wiped away tears as decades of close collaboration came to an end.

Fashion editors paid tribute to Valentino, who has dressed film stars, first ladies and royalty including Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn, Nancy Reagan, Gwyneth Paltrow and Queen Rania of Jordan.

"He really understood how rich women wanted to dress," said Glenda Bailey, editor-in-chief of Harper's Bazaar magazine. "That is something which sounds so obvious but in fact is very rare, and I think he will be dearly missed."

First Death Anniversary

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† Vicente Manglona Concepcion

"Ben-Ki"

would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first anniversary of his passing to eternal life.

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Daily Mass will be celebrated at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral every morning at 6:00 a.m. beginning Tuesday, January 22 through Wednesday, January 30, 2008, and also every evening at 6:00 p.m. at the San Vicente Church. Holy Rosary will be said at 6:30 p.m. every evening at San Vicente Church.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers will forever be remembered.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase/ Thank you.

KI CONCEPCION & CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN

Jerry O. Rabdau

Jerry O. Rabdau, age 68, passed away January 15, 2008 in Mesquite, NV.
Jerry was born August 24, 1939 to Joseph and Jean Rabdau.

Jerry grew up in Tacoma, WA. He graduated from Western Washington University in 1961. He married Rose Mary Jentges on August 21, 1965 in Greencreek, ID. Jerry worked as a teacher and educational administrator through out his career. He received his Masters Degree from San Jose State University.

He taught in Tacoma, WA for many years and took teaching assignments in Kosrae, Bangkok and Saipan. Jerry taught math at Marianas High School, Hopwood Junior High, as well as working as the Math Specialist. He also worked at Northern Marianas College until his retirement in 1993.

Jerry was an avid world traveler. In retirement, he and Rose continued to travel around the world. Jerry also enjoyed golfing, computer games and spending time with grandchildren.

Jerry is survived by his beloved wife, Rose Mary of Yakima, WA; son Matthew (Colette) Rabdau of Portland, OR; daughter Vanessa (Donald) Kenning of Kennewick, WA; brother Joel (Joanne) Rabdau; sisters Joan Emmett, Josephine (Bob) Bilyew, Jean (Joe) Tacchini, Judy Chaney, Janet (Dennis) Engelhart, Julie Metzger; and three grandchildren.
He was preceded in death by his brother, John Rabdau.

A Funeral Mass will be held at Holy Rosary Parish near his home in Yakima, WA on Saturday, January 26. Jerry was a cancer survivor and the family asks that donations be made to the American Cancer Society in lieu of flowers.

Condolences may be sent to: Rose Mary Rabdau, 3701 Gun Club Rd #37, Yakima WA 98901.

Police assess Amy Winehouse footage

LONDON (AP)—Scotland Yard started an investigation Wednesday into a video that allegedly shows troubled British singer Amy Winehouse smoking crack.

The British tabloid, The Sun, released grainy footage showing Grammy-nominated Winehouse, 24, inhaling fumes from a pipe. The video was reportedly shot hours before she attended a court hearing for her jailed husband.

Police will look at the video before deciding whether any charges should be brought against Winehouse, a Metropolitan Police spokesman said while speaking on condition of anonymity in line with force policy. The Sun gave the police the video, he said.

Winehouse spokesman Shane O'Neill said he was unable to comment on the investigation.

In the video, Winehouse lights a pipe in front of a photo that appears to have been taken on the day of her wedding to Blake Fielder-Civil.

Winehouse's father, Mitch Winehouse, said in an interview with The Sun that he was devastated by the images and hoped it would prompt his daughter to turn her life around.

"Your video of Amy taking drugs may well be the best thing that has ever happened to her," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Universal Records, Winehouse's record label, said it would do what it could to help her.

"We are deeply disappointed and upset by these latest revelations and are doing everything we can to offer Amy our full support in dealing with her problems," it said in a statement Tuesday.

The singer's public demise amid allegations of drug use and lackluster musical performances have provided fodder for Britain's notoriously scandal-hungry newspapers.

Last month, the troubled singer, whose songs include "Rehab" and "You Know I'm No Good," was photographed walking outside her London home wearing a bra and jeans, with no shoes, looking upset.

Winehouse attracted yet more attention in court Friday when she blew Fielder-Civil kisses and shouted out, "I love you, handsome, gorgeous one," as he was led away after facing charges of assault and conspiracy.

Fielder-Civil, 25, is accused of attacking a pub landlord and then later conspiring with him to withdraw as a witness at the trial. Fielder-Civil pleaded innocent to the charge of assault, and is expected to plead to a charge of perverting the course of justice next month.

Winehouse is nominated for six Grammys including best new artist and album of the year for "Back to Black," plus record and song of the year for the brassy hit "Rehab." The awards will be presented Feb. 10 in Los Angeles.

AP

Singer Amy Winehouse arrives at the MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles, in this June 3, 2007, file photo.

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Meet the Spartans

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:15	4:20	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:15	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Diedrich Bader, Kevin Sorbo
Comedy • Rated PG13 ●

Synopsis

From the creators of Scary Movie and Date Movie comes this tongue-in-cheek parody of the sword-and-sandal epics, dubbed Meet the Spartans. The 20th Century Fox production is written and directed by the filmmaking team of Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer. Sure Leonidas may have nothing more than a cape and some leather underwear to protect him from the razor sharp swords of his Persian enemies, but that won't stop the brave leader and his team of thirteen warriors from defending their beloved homeland against a powerful invading force that includes the likes of a mutant Paris Hilton, the Transformers, the Ghost Rider and Rocky Balboa.

Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo

Friday		4:30	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:05	

Judy Ann Santos, Ryan Agoncillo
Comedy, Romance • Rated NR ■

Synopsis

Angie (Judy Ann Santos) and Jed (Ryan Agoncillo) are first-time parents who experience the joys and pains of raising a child. They realize that parenthood is extremely demanding that they learn to sacrifice their own interests for their baby. One day, Jed has to go abroad for a business convention. Angie decides to go along, leaving their child with their friends. This is when their mothers (Gloria Diaz and Gina Pareño) come in and take turns taking care of their child, which led to a total disaster.

★ ★ ★

Cloverfield

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Michael Stahl David, Mike Vogel
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13 ■

27 Dresses

Friday		4:15	7:20	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:20	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:20	

Katherine Heigl, James Marsden
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13 ●

The Bucket List

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13 ▙

Mad Money

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13 ▙

One Missed Call

Friday		@	7:25	9:40
Saturday	@	@	7:25	9:40
Sunday	@	@		
Mon thru Thurs		@		

Edward Burns, Shannyn Sossamon
Horror, Remake • Rated PG13 ▙

Alvin & The Chipmunks

Friday		4:05	@	@
Saturday	1:05	4:05	@	@
Sunday	1:05	4:05	@	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	@	

Jason Lee, Cameron Richardson
Comedy, Family • Rated PG ▙

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Tom Cruise ups star power at SAG Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tom Cruise is set to be a presenter at the Screen Actors Guild Awards ceremony Sunday, joining a roster of A-listers appearing on the show.

Cruise, a three-time Oscar and SAG Awards nominee, will help hand out the coveted Actor trophies at the Shrine Auditorium. Cruise appeared as a presenter at the Academy Awards in 2007 but has never performed those duties at the SAG Awards.

The 45-year-old actor and movie mogul made news this month as the subject of an "unauthorized biography" and a four-year-old video that surfaced on the Internet in which he extols the virtues of Scientology.

Previously announced SAG Awards presenters include Steve Carell, Russell Crowe, Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey, Forest Whitaker and John Travolta.

The show is shaping up to be one of the most star-studded events of Hollywood's awards season, since the Writers Guild of America strike forced cancellation or scaling-down of other kudos ceremonies, including the Golden Globe Awards.

The SAG Awards will recognize performances in five film and eight television categories. Winners, chosen by nearly 100,000 members of the actors' union, often become front-runners for the Academy Awards.

O'Connell receives 20th Oscar nomination

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kevin O'Connell's previous 19 Oscar nominations were nothing like this.

The 50-year-old sound mixer, who holds the record for the most Academy Award nominations without a win, received his 20th nomination Tuesday.

O'Connell said the nomination for "Transformers" came after he had a fitful night's sleep filled with bizarre dreams.

"I was at the Academy, in my underwear, talking to Nicolas Cage," he said. "He was showing me the nominations list, but when I looked at it, it disappeared. I always remember sleepless nights, but I never had that weird anxiety."

Could this be his winning year? If it is, he'll thank his mother, who died last year. She got him into the entertainment business and was his most ardent supporter.

"I think my mother took one for the team," O'Connell said Tuesday with a smile in his voice.

He also wants to credit his many colleagues.

"It literally takes an army to do what we do," he said. "I'm just the guy who gets the accolade at the end of the year."

O'Connell's first nomination was for 1983's "Terms of Endearment." The list also includes "A Few Good Men," "The Rock," "The Patriot," two "Spider-Man" movies and "Apocalypto."

Despite his 19 Oscar losses, O'Connell says he feels like a winner. With his unique Academy record, he's appeared on radio programs, TV talk shows and in newspapers around the country.

"I'm like the luckiest guy on the planet," he said. "How many other people have 20 Oscar nominations? If I had won 25 years ago on my first nomination, nobody would be talking to me right now."

MPAA admits mistake on downloading study

By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER

Hollywood laid much of the blame for illegal movie downloading on college students. Now, it says its math was wrong.

In a 2005 study it commissioned, the Motion Picture Association of America claimed that 44 percent of the industry's domestic losses came from illegal downloading of movies by college students, who often have access to high-bandwidth networks on campus.

The MPAA has used the study to pressure colleges to take tougher steps to prevent illegal file-sharing and to back legislation currently before the House of Representatives that would force them to do so.

But now the MPAA, which represents the U.S. motion picture industry, has told education groups a "human error" in that survey caused it to get the number wrong. It now blames college students for about 15 percent of revenue loss.

The MPAA says that's still significant, and justifies a major effort by colleges and universities to crack down on illegal file-sharing. But Mark Luker, vice president of campus IT group Educause, says it doesn't account for the fact that more than 80 percent of college students live off campus and aren't necessarily using college networks. He says 3 percent is a more reasonable estimate for the percentage of revenue that might be at stake on campus networks.

'Blood' score wasn't eligible for Oscar

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It looked like a glaring snub when Jonny Greenwood's music for "There Will Be Blood" wasn't among the five Academy Award nominees for best original score.

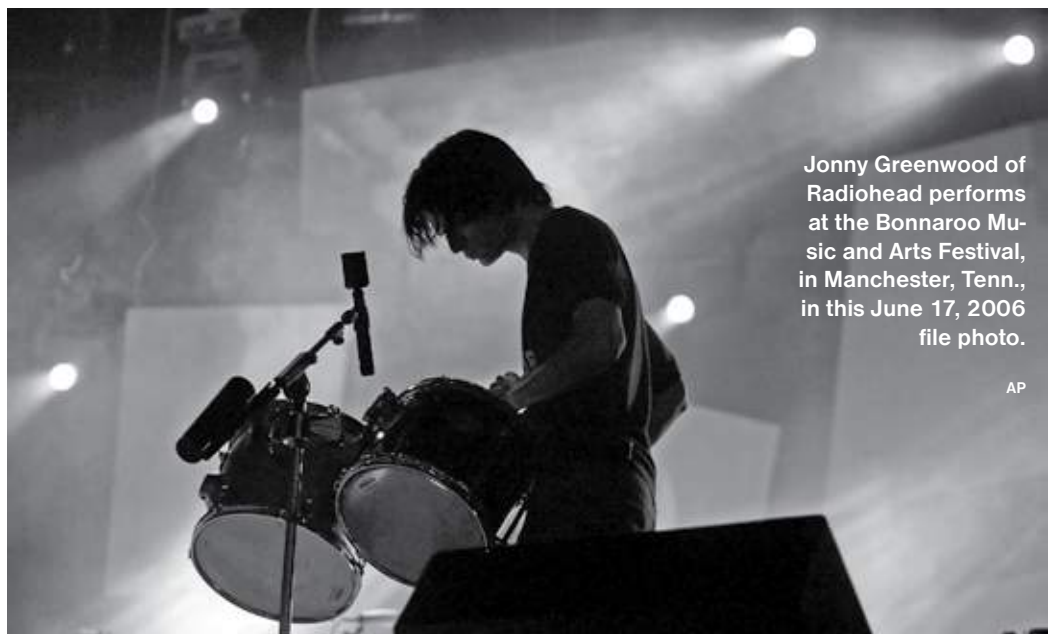
Turns out it wasn't eligible—because it wasn't entirely original.

Much of the searing music from the Radiohead guitarist had appeared elsewhere previously, said Charles Bernstein, chairman of the music branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which chooses the nominees.

"The Oscar is given for the best original score—'original' meaning written for the picture—and the majority of the music in 'There Will Be Blood' was not eligible because it was not written for the picture," Bernstein said Wednesday.

Some of the score came from a performance Greenwood had done for the BBC, titled "Popcorn Superhet Receiver." Some of it came from Estonian composer Arvo Part; still other parts came from a Brahms violin concerto.

Paul Thomas Anderson's dramatic oil saga received eight Academy Award nominations Tuesday—tying it for the most with "No Country for Old Men"—including best picture, best director, best actor (Daniel Day-Lewis) and best adapted screenplay. Had Greenwood's score been nominated, it would have given "There Will Be Blood" the most nominations, a promotional boon to the studio.



Jonny Greenwood of Radiohead performs at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival, in Manchester, Tenn., in this June 17, 2006 file photo.

AP

Paramount Vantage, which released the film, did not have an immediate comment.

The five films whose scores were nominated are: "Atonement," Dario Marianelli; "The Kite Runner," Alberto Iglesias; "Michael Clayton," James Newton Howard; "Ratatouille," Michael Giacchino; and "3:10 to Yuma," Marco Beltrami.

The Oscars are scheduled to be presented Feb. 24. Whether the ceremony itself will take place, and in what form, is still in question because of the ongoing writers strike.

Judge sentences Rhymes to probation

NEW YORK (AP)—Busta Rhymes pleaded guilty Wednesday to assaulting his ex-driver and a fan in a deal that will bring three years' probation and 10 days of community service.

The 35-year-old rapper also must pay a $1,250 fine, plus court costs, for driving while intoxicated and with a suspended license.

He pleaded guilty to the charges—related to four separate incidents—in Manhattan Criminal Court on the day he was set to stand trial.

Rhymes (real name: Trevor Smith) must enroll in a DWI program, too.

"I just want to say that I'm very grateful to the judge, and I'm very grateful to the system. I believe in the system," Rhymes said as he left court.

Judge Larry Stephen revoked Rhymes' driver's license for six months and signed an order of protection directing him to stay away from his former driver.

Rhymes is due back in court for formal sentencing on March 18.

Rhymes, known for eye-catching outfits and an antic performance style, was dressed in a conservative black suit with gray pinstripes, a dark shirt and gray tie during his court appearance.

His hits include "Put Your Hands Where My Eyes Could See," "Dangerous" and "Touch It." He also has appeared in movies, including "Shaft" and "Finding Forrester."

NY Philharmonic to be seen globally

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Philharmonic's concert in North Korea next month is to be broadcast live worldwide, the orchestra announced Wednesday.

The Feb. 26 concert in the nation's capital is to be conducted by the orchestra's music director, Lorin Maazel, in the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

The program will include the national anthems of both North Korea and the United States; the Prelude to Act III of Wagner's "Lohengrin"; Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, "From the New World," and Gershwin's "An American in Paris."

The telecast is to be produced by the New York Philharmonic, EuroArts Music International, ARTE France and South Korea's Munhwa Broadcasting Company. The European Broadcasting Union will also join the effort.

Details of the broadcast in the United States have yet to be announced.

The Pyongyang concert is the highlight of the orchestra's two-day visit to North Korea, from Feb. 25 to 27, following the Philharmonic's trip to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing.

'Housewife' takes up breast cancer lobby

AP

"Desperate Housewives" star Marcia Cross, center, flanked by Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., left, and Lifetime Network Executive Vice President Meredith Wagner, speaks at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008, to raise awareness of the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Hollywood writers strike shuttered production on ABC's "Desperate Housewives," but Marcia Cross hasn't been spending her downtime holed up inside.

The 45-year-old actress was on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, lobbying Congress to pass the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2007 to end "drive-through" mastectomies for women forced to leave the hospital hours after surgery.

Cross is campaigning to give women the choice to recuperate for at least 48 hours following a mastectomy. She was joined by Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., and Lifetime network executive Meredith Wagner.

Lifetime has collected more than 20 million signatures for the petition on its Web site, according to the network.

"It's such a simple bill that it's hard for me to understand why it's been languishing in Congress for 10 years," Cross said Wednesday. "When they told me about it, I just said, `What's the problem?'"

Cross has several friends who survived breast cancer, and said she can't imagine how someone can go home the same day after losing one or both breasts.

"I tried to imagine losing a foot and then (people) saying, 'OK, now go home.' ... It's just really unfathomable," she said. She said she thinks the bill will finally pass.

"I feel very optimistic that maybe that Congress has shifted a bit, that health care is more in the forefront, that maybe, you know, this is the moment," she said.

Lil Wayne booked on drug charges in Yuma

PHOENIX (AP)—Lil Wayne was booked Wednesday in Yuma on three felony drug charges.

The 25-year-old rapper, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter Jr., was being held at the Yuma County Sheriff's jail, said Capt. Eben Bratcher.

Carter was taken for a video arraignment late Wednesday morning in a justice court in Wellton, 35 miles east of Yuma.

He faces charges of possession of dangerous drugs, narcotics and drug paraphernalia, authorities said.

Bratcher said Carter was arrested by Drug Enforcement Administration agents at a Border Patrol checkpoint 78 miles from Yuma. Two other men were arrested with him, Bratcher said.

Sheriff's Major Leon Wilmot said he didn't know if Wayne had an attorney.

Birdman and Lil Wayne won a viewers' choice award for their song "Stuntin' Like My Daddy" at Black Entertainment Television's 2007 Hip-Hop Awards.

Teen's affection for mom's boyfriend raises eyebrows

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Our divorced daughter has been dating "Brian," a man she met online, for a little over a year. My husband and I are concerned about the behavior of our 13-year-old granddaughter, "Lolita," toward him. Lolita is naive in many ways and unaware of the pitfalls she may encounter. She's constantly sitting on Brian's lap, hugging him, or talking to him in very close proximity.

We feel that our daughter should have a talk with Lolita and explain that a "young woman" who is rapidly developing should not act this way with a man who is not her father. Failing that, we feel that, as the adult, Brian should discourage it—which we haven't seen him do.

On a trip to the beach a few months ago, their "play" in the ocean looked more like a couple than a girl with a potential stepdad.

Our daughter also has an 8-year-old girl to whom Brian does not show the same kind of attention. I don't want to make unwarranted accusations about something that may be entirely innocent. It could seriously jeopardize our relationship with our daughter. Do we have a valid concern, or are we just two Puritanical old fogies?

FEELING UNEASY IN FLORIDA

DEAR FEELING UNEASY: It would be interesting to know how involved in your granddaughters' lives their father has been. If the answer is "Not very," then it's possible that Lolita is trying to elicit from Brian the kind of affection she has craved from her dad. She may not realize that boundaries are being crossed unless it's explained to her. Because what you saw aroused your concern, you should certainly mention it to your daughter, and urge her to have "that talk" with Lolita.

It concerns me that Brian does not treat both of your granddaughters equally. He may be flattered by the attention he receives from Lolita. Or, he could be flirting with her with an eye to molesting her. Not knowing Brian or his background, I can't predict what might or might not happen. Has it occurred to you to Google him or check the state sex offender Web site? If you haven't, your daughter should.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a feeling that my girlfriend of one year, "Wanda," may be trying to manipulate our relationship in a way that I don't get to spend time with my friends, my ex and our kids. When I try to spend time with them, Wanda either gets sick or some terrible situation happens.

She has told me many times that she is a jealous person. I have backed off spending time with all the other people in my life, and now she's hanging out with her girlfriends, saying that because I work nights—and she works days—that she "can't just sit at home." She also says that when I'm off I should want to spend all my free time with her.

I was thinking about asking her to marry me, but now I feel cold feet approaching. What should I do?

BEEN HERE BEFORE IN MISSOURI

DEAR BEEN HERE BEFORE: You appear to be a young man with good sense—including your sixth. Jealousy and an attempt to manipulate are often signs of insecurity. Trying to quell your girlfriend's insecurity by isolating yourself won't make her less jealous because jealousy and insecurity are insatiable. Unless your girlfriend is willing to accept that she has a problem and get some counseling, my advice is to pay attention to those cold feet and keep walking.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WELL, SO LONG, MAX. IT WAS GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
YOU, TOO.
HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME.
COME VISIT ME SOMETIME, OK, FELLA?
HECK, I'LL COME RIGHT NOW! SO LONG, MOM! BYE, DAD!
CALVIN, GET BACK HERE!
1/25
I NEVER GET TO DO ANYTHING FUN.
MISSED YOUR CHANCE, DEAR. WE COULD'VE BOUGHT HIM A TICKET.
WELL...
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LIZ, I THINK GARFIELD IS CHEATING ON HIS DIET
YEAH, I'M PRETTY SURE
THE REFRIGERATOR IS MISSING
I'LL NEVER GO HUNGRY AGAIN!
JIM DAVIS 1-25
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By Bryan Basset

A CUSTOMER CAME INTO THE BOOKSTORE TODAY WITH THE WORST COMB-OVER I'VE EVER SEEN.
HOW BAD WAS IT?
THE MAN'S HAIR ORIGINATED FROM HIS EARS.
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BRIAN BASSET

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'M IN A DOGGY BARK ROOM.
1-25
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I'M TALKING TO A GIRL DOG. SO FAR, WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.
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13 Guitar's cousin
14 For all to hear
15 Under the weather
16 1960s British hoodlums
18 — -relief
19 Store-sign stat
20 Mesopotamia, today
22 Wire service initials
23 Stir-fry equipment
27 Pretense
29 Pluto, once
31 Snap
34 Lamenter's verse
35 Confine with walls
37 Dine on
38 Bleak film genre
39 "Smoking or —?"
41 Metal coffee cup holder
45 Drum type
47 Solidify
48 Elvis No.1 hit, for short
52 Dined
53 One of Churchill's offerings?
54 Time of your life?
55 Rage
56 Tubular pasta
57 "— Misérables"
58 Part of NIMBY

DOWN
1 Out, of sorts?
2 On top of the world?
3 Oklahoma city
4 "The Sultan of Swat"
5 Stretch
6 Sick and tired
7 Toronto Blue —
8 Priestly garment
9 Greet the villain
10 Purchase
11 Billboards
17 Faucet problem
21 Persian Gulf nation
23 "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" is one
24 Indivisible
25 Frat party need
26 Pigs' home
28 Opposed
30 Meadow
31 See 26-Down
32 Med. arrangement
33 Sapporo sash
36 Remote control precursor
37 Mesh, as gears
40 Ryan or Shaquille
42 One more time
43 Back in style
44 Armada
45 Data unit
46 Mined finds
48 Recipe meas.
49 Lamb dam
50 Lair
51 Roseanne's TV hubby

Solution time: 25 mins.

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R	U	E	■	A	C	R	E	■	V	E	G	A
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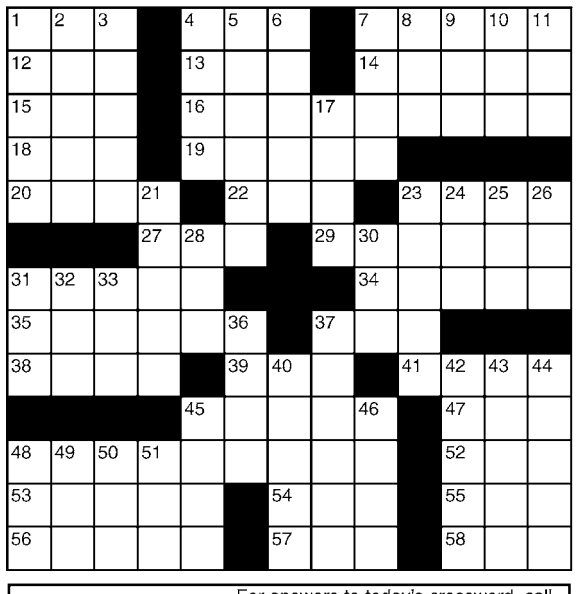
■	■	S	O	D	■	E	T	E	R	N	A	L
A	S	H	R	A	M	■	S	O	L	■	■	■
N	E	O	■	L	A	M	■	N	A	K	E	D
T	E	N	D	■	J	O	G	■	P	E	R	I
E	N	D	E	D	■	P	A	W	■	E	N	E
■	■	■	W	E	B	■	S	E	A	L	E	D
W	I	L	D	C	A	T	■	A	S	H	■	■
O	D	O	R	■	K	E	E	P	S	A	K	E
L	O	C	O	■	E	R	G	O	■	U	A	E
F	L	I	P	■	D	I	O	N	■	L	I	L

Yesterday's answer 1-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alicia Keys, 27; China Kantner, 37; Richard Grieve, 38; Dinah Manoff, 50

Happy Birthday: As much as you like to delve into the unusual and the unfamiliar, this year you may find yourself looking for the steady route. Take a break and enjoy some of the things you have worked so hard to acquire. Spend time with the ones you love and take that vacation you have been dreaming about. Satisfy your whims, whatever they might be. Your numbers are 8, 12, 22, 31, 35, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Good advice will be offered through an unusual channel. It will be up to you to ask for help, if you need it, to finish what you started. Being self-indulgent will lead to trouble in your relationships. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't be dependent on what others say and do. Do what you feel is right. An opportunity is apparent to learn something valuable if you travel or attend an informative class. Good things can happen if you are open. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Spend time fixing up your surroundings. Money will be made available through an investment, loan or an old debt owed to you. You will have some really good ideas that can help you get ahead financially and professionally. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make adjustments at home and at work and you will be much happier. Not everyone will be in agreement with you but, as long as you don't overreact, you can control whatever arises. Love is in a high cycle. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Money will come and go quickly. Protect your assets by being more frugal and less generous. Don't feel obliged to give in to costly demands. An emotional change will cause you to rethink your personal situation. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You've got everyone wondering what you'll do next. Don't disappoint your peers and friends—give them what they want. Changes will lead to a more exciting future. Taking action will be what leads to your success. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep your eyes open and your ears peeled for information. Someone may be keeping a secret from you. You mustn't let anyone know how bothered you are by what is going on. Focus on your own talent. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep whatever you are working on a secret. Someone will be all too happy to steal your ideas. Don't let uncertainties at home or in your personal life stand in the way of your productivity. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Exaggeration will be what slows you down. If you promise one thing and offer another, you will be sending the wrong message. Stay true to form if possible and, if not, reassess your situation and move on. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Formulate your ideas and get what you want in writing. Money can be made, deals signed and progress made. Be very direct and opinionated if you want to remain in control. A love issue can be resolved by early evening, putting your mind at ease. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Let everyone know what you are planning to do and you will attract the sort of attention you need to get things done. You will be praised for your insight and talent and proposals will be presented to you. Pick and choose wisely. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be pulled in many different directions if you continue to lead others on by not making a much-needed decision. Look for a way to do things that will go unnoticed by those all too willing to take credit for your talent. Don't get angry, get active. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical and industrious, a combination that can lead to success. Your drive and clear vision will enable you to reach whatever goals you set.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1					6		5	3
							1	
		3	8			9		
3					2		4	7
				3				
5	4		9					8
		4			1	5		
	3							
7	6		4					2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	7	8	2	4	5	6	9
8	5	2	6	9	7	4	3	1
6	4	9	1	3	5	8	7	2
9	2	3	4	8	6	1	5	7
5	6	8	3	7	1	2	9	4
4	7	1	9	5	2	6	8	3
7	3	5	2	4	8	9	1	6
1	8	4	7	6	9	3	2	5
2	9	6	5	1	3	7	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS! **Solution: 11 letters**

S	F	S	T	E	M	P	A	R	W	E	F	N	Y	P
W	E	D	D	I	N	G	O	L	O	V	E	A	T	H
E	E	L	R	S	G	L	P	C	A	E	R	T	T	O
E	S	T	E	L	O	I	V	E	U	N	N	U	E	N
T	N	N	N	C	N	F	F	S	C	T	L	R	R	E
H	D	G	A	K	T	E	S	T	E	I	T	E	P	D
E	T	R	O	P	M	I	L	R	P	I	R	I	V	R
A	D	E	(V)	H	T	R	O	S	E	S	Y	P	N	A
R	F	E	C	(A)	U	T	C	N	R	D	T	T	S	G
T	R	N	S	S	(S)	E	A	E	C	F	R	E	S	H
Y	U	E	H	O	N	(E)	T	P	I	U	A	O	T	E
B	I	Z	G	T	L	A	I	O	T	S	P	W	N	H
A	T	O	R	C	I	D	O	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y
B	O	D	L	L	A	C	N	N	X	S	A	N	L	Y
D	Y	L	I	M	A	F	R	I	E	N	D	R	P	Y

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Away, Baby, Bunch, Call, Card, Clean, Color, Cutting, Dozen, Event, Exotic, Family, Fees, Fern, Fresh, Friend, Fruit, Garden, Gift, Good, Green, Hand, Holiday, Import, Life, Location, Love, Nature, Open, Order, Party, Phone, Pink, Plants, Pretty, Price, Retail, Roses, Rush, Scent, Season, Selection, Send, Sold, Stem, Store, Sweetheart, Tissue, Trim, Truth, Tulips, Vase, Violets, Wedding, Wrap

Yesterday's Answer: Sanitizing

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6688. **Sorry,** no online orders for this special offer.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

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2 br furnished apartment w/ laundry facility. Beach Road. Close to beach walking path. $425/mo. Call 483-1974.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 HOUSEWORKER (LIVE IN)
(ST 7285)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Deduction $100.00/monthly housing; deduction $100.00/monthly food & medical provided. Contact: Maria Glenn G. and Patricia Lynn A. Mendoza @235-2043.

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1 WAITER/WAITRESS
(F 13261)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (F 13262)
Salary:$3.60-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(F 13263)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER
(F 13264)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 STOREKEEPER (F 13265)
Salary:$3.60-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

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1 WAREHOUSE WORKER
(F 13266)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workman's compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering Services Inc. dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

2 FOOD SERVER (F 13267)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workman's compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering Services Inc. dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 COOK (F 13268)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workman's compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering Services Inc. dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

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1 WAITRESS/WAITER (F 13269)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Roy Jen Enterprise Inc. dba Bud's Bar @898-4866.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER
(F 13270)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Roy Jen Enterprise Inc. dba Bud's Bar @898-4866.

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2 MASON (F 13271)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employer housing; employee food; medical & worksman compensation. Contact: Vargas Corporation @235-0297.

1 CARPENTER (F 13272)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employer housing; employee food; medical & worksman compensation. Contact: Vargas Corporation @235-0297.

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1 GENERAL MANAGER
(F 13273)
Salary:$1,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Wondersea Saipan Inc. @233-7011.

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1 WAITRESS/WAITER (F 13274)
Salary:$3.40-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; workers compensation & medical expense. Contact: M. Samwa Planning Ltd. @235-7102.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The Estate of ANTONIO LITULUMAR TEREGEYO, Deceased. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-0091

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to (he highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 010 K 270, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 859 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01 dated August 19, 1987, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 87-2910, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 15, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 17th day of January, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

WHATZIT Solution:
Split judgment

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1 BEAUTICIAN (F 13275)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; transportation employee provided; medical & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Esquire Enterprises, Inc. @234-6564.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (LIVE-IN)
(F 13276)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing deduction; $100.00/food deduction & medical provided. Contact: Yiyao Zhang @235-8163.

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1 SUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR
(F 13277)
Salary:$1,000.00/monthly. Benefits: $200.00/housing allowance; medical & workmens compensation. Contact: Big Dog Corporation dba Big Dog Dive Station Saipan @235-7706.

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1 TEACHER (DAYCARE)
(F 13278)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Yeldez T. Javier dba Loving Hands Daycare @235-0611.

1 HOUSEWORKER (F 13279)
Salary:$3.55/hour. ER provided housing; ER provided food; medical & worksman compensation. Contact: Yeldez T. Javier dba Loving Hands Daycare @235-0611.

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1 MAINTENANCE (F 13280)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Monica S. Manalo dba Monia's Music Studio @288-6683.

NEW Rattan Furniture
FOR SALE
Expensive material
Call 235-4791,
433-9616, 285-7446

BOAT ENGINE
REPAIR CENTER
233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD BUFRON, Plaintiff, -v- SAMUEL RAYBURN, Defendant. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 04-0043

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on October 12, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

1. Lot No 012 B 08, situated in Calabera, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing 39,297 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 0 12 B 01, which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 1466 on the 15th of March, 1972.
2. Tract 22609 (formerly H-65), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,845 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No.2165/74, the original of which Was registered June 15, 1976 as Land Registry Document No. 5272.
3. Tract 22610 (formerly H-65 A), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 13,558 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2164/74, the original of which was registered June 15, 1976 as Land Registry Document No. 5272.
4. Lot E.A. 579, situated in Laualau, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,056 square meters, more or less, being situated in Land Square Seven, Section R, Units u and v, and Land Square Ten, Section I, Units a and b, as shown on APWO Drawings No. 11411 and 11414 on file with the Clerk of Courts (being all that property conveyed by that Grant of Public Domain from the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to Joaquin I. Pangelinan executed April 18, 1956 and filed April 25, 1956 at the Clerk of Courts).
5. Tract/Lot No. H-378, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 27,537 square meters, more or less, as shown on Division of Lands & Surveys Official survey plat no. 2136/89 dated August 10, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 89-2641, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
6. Tract/Lot No. H-378 "A", situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,585 square meters, more or less, as shown on Division of Lands & Surveys Official survey plat no. 2136/89 dated August 10, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No.89-2641, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
7. Lot 001 C 10, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,999 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral I Plat No. 001 C 01, the original of which was recorded with the Commonwealth Recorder on March 20, 1980, as Document No. 9811.
8. Lot 001 C 16 (part of original Lot 001 C 06), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 14,579 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 04, the Original of which was recorded with the Commonwealth Recorder on June 13, 1986, as Document No. 86-1187.
9. Lot 0 12 J 13, Parcel "A", situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, consisting of the northern portion of Lot 012 J 13, and containing an area of 2,319 square meters, more or less,

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 22, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

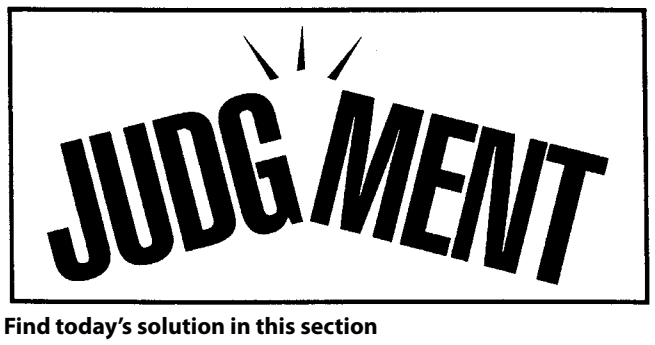
Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 17th Jay of January, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*	
• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1
Combo (Print and Online)*	
• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2
Radio (KCNM/KZMI)	
• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 SALES REPRESENATIVE (F 13281)
Salary:$800.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Bernadita R. Cabrera dba Northshore Marine Sports @483-9991.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (F 13282)
Salary:$750.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employers. Contact: Bridge Capital, LLC. @322-2222.

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2 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC (F 13283)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation included. Contact: Cornelo D Alomia dba Triple R Pacific Motor Shop @234-3387.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (F 13284)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee provided housing; employee provided food; workmen's compensation & medical provided. Contact: ISA Enterprises Inc. @285-0628.

1 COMMERCIAL CLAENER (F 13285)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee provided housing; employee provided food; workmen's compensation & medical provided. Contact: ISA Enterprises Inc. @285-0628.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (F 13286)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/charge deduct monthly housing; $100.00/deduct food monthly; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Mr. & Mrs. Edel G. Cudia @235-0358.

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1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (F 13287)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Unicorn Corporation @322-3364.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (F 13288)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided (Live-in); food provided; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Ulpiano C. and Estrella Baysa @235-0948.

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1 SUPERVISOR OF COMMUNICATIONS (F 13289)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Housing not provided; food not provided; medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Nick S. Ramon dba Western Pacific Telecommunication Service Company @234-6030.

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1 COMPTROLLER (F 13290)
Salary:$12.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Catering @288-4799.

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1 OFFICE CLERK (F 13291)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Javili General Partnership @235-4928.

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1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (F 13292)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: AA Enterprises, Inc. @322-4447.

1 CASHIER (F 13293)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: AA Enterprises, Inc. @322-4447.

1 H.E. OPERATOR (F 13294)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: AA Enterprises, Inc. @322-4447.

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1 WAITRESS/WAITER (F 13295)
Salary:$3.55-$3.70/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Nippon General Trading Corp. @233-8223.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (F 13296)
Salary:$3.55-$6.70/hour. Benefits: $150.00/housing allowance; workmen's compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Anthony R. Stearns, MD dba Marianas Medical Center @2341-3926.

1 X-RAY/ULTRASOUND TECH (F 13297)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: $150.00/housing allowance; workmen's compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Anthony R. Stearns, MD dba Marianas Medical Center @2341-3926.

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1 GROUNDSKEEPER (F 13298)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food & medical provided. Contact: Rosa C. Sorensen @322-2424.

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1 WAREHOUSE WORKER (F 13299)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (F 13300)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

1 ELECTRICIAN (F 13301)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

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1 LOGISTICS MANAGER (F 13302)
Salary:$1,500.00-$1,700.00/monthly. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

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1 (GENERAL) MAINTENANCE WORKER MUNICIPAL (F 13303)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Law Offices of Ramon K. Quichocho LLC. @234-8946.

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1 CUTTER (F 13304)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

7 GARMENT INSPECTOR (F 13305)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

2 PRESSER (F 13306)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

1 ACCOUNTANT MANAGER (F 13307)
Salary:$10.48/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

35 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR (F 13308)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT • P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962 • E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

SECOND AMENDED INVITATION TO BID
No. CPA-SA-2007-001
SALE OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL LUMBER:

	ITEMS	QUANTITY	MINIMUM BID
1.	4"x 6" x 18'	678 pieces	$30.00 each
2.	4"x 12" x 18'	302 pieces	$50.00 each

Interested individuals or firms may submit bids for the purchasing of the above listed lumber to the Acting Executive Director, Mr. Stanley C. Torres, at the CPA Administration Office, Second Floor of the Arrival Building at the Saipan International Airport, during regular working hours.

Bidders are able to inspect the items for bid, Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except legal holidays. For inspection arrangements, please contact Mr. Joe Santos at 664-3538.

Bids will be accepted on a "first come, first serve" basis and the listed prices are final. There will be no negotiations for price reductions. For more information, please call (670) 664-3500.

/s/ STANLEY C. TORRES
Acting Executive Director
Date: January 17, 2008

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-CHC-032

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 15, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"LABORATORY SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT **9:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 6, 2008** AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-CHC-033

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 15, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"HOSPITAL FOOD AND CAFETERIA SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT **10:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 06, 2008** AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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235-NEWS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-CHC-034

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 15, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"PRIVATIZATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER–HEMODIALYSIS UNIT"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT **11:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 06, 2008** AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP08-DCCA/HPO-027

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"PREPARATION OF MARITIME CONTEXT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP08-DCCA/HPO-028

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"TO CONDUCT UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY REMOTE SENSING SURVEY OF THE TANAPAG LAGOON, SAIPAN, CNMI FOR THE DCCA-HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP08-DCCA/HPO-029

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"TO CONDUCT ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR JAPANESE DEFENSIVE COMPLEX ON THE ISLAND OF ROTA, CNMI FOR THE DCCA-HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP08-DCCA/HPO-030

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"TO DEMONSTRATE THE USE AND INTERPRETATION OF GROUND PENETRATING RADAR FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS FOR THE DCCA-HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP08-DCCA/HPO-031

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"CREATION OF ELECTRONIC DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE DCCA-HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NMHC ITB 08-004
PURCHASE OF THREE (3) COMPUTERS

This Ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD Funds.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairman of the Board is soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested vendors for the purchase of three (3) computers for the Tinian Public Library.

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours, Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays.

Sealed bids must be marked "NMHC ITB-08-004". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, January 29, 2008.**

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 29, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 29, 2008, AND must be received no later than February 7, 2008. **Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.**

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement of Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., local time February 8, 2008. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time on January 29, 2008.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this procurement. This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC further notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/
Manuel A. Sablan
Chairman of the Board

/s/
Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-009

The Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery and installation of **School and Office Furniture for Kagman High School, Saipan**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-009" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **February 11, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-009, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via the following fax number: (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) business days prior to the deadline to submit bids.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 or 3035.

Bidders are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal
RFP 08-011

The Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Preventative Maintenance, Repair, Parts Supply and General Automotive Services for the Public School System Bus and Vehicle Fleets**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill,, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-011" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than February 6, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-011, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (1-original and one copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards, to split awards, or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB# 08-018

The Public School System (PSS) and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting for competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Desktop & Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for Saipan Community School (SCS)** on the island of Saipan.

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All Bid Proposals must be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB # 08-018" and submitted one (1) original with four (4) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than February 18, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB# 08-018, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility determination" (1-original with 4-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl F. dela Cruz, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791 Alternatively, technical questions mail be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the submission deadline.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

General inquiries to this announcement may be directed to the PSS Acting, Procurement and Supply Office at telephone number 237-3077 or 3062 or 3035.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. dela Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-012

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for **Security Services for all Public School Campuses and PSS Properties located in the CNMI.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-012" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than February 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in separate envelope marked "IFB 08-012, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility determination" (1-original and 1-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be emailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the deadline for submission of bids.

General inquiries to this announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 / 3035.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-013

The CNMI Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Desktop Computers, Notebook Computers, and Projectors for Garapan Elementary School, Saipan**.

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than February 8, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in separate envelope marked "IFB 08-013, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility determination" (1-original and 1-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the submission deadline.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

General inquiries to this announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 / 3035.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-014

The CNMI Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Accordion Type Aluminum Typhoon Shutters for Various PSS Head Start Centers located throughout the CNMI**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-014" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than February 8, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-014, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (1-original and one copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI business license.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P & S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-015

The CNMI Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Desktop Computers and Accessories for Tinian Jr./Sr. High School.**

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-015" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than February 14, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-015, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility determination" (1-original and 1-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the submission deadline.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

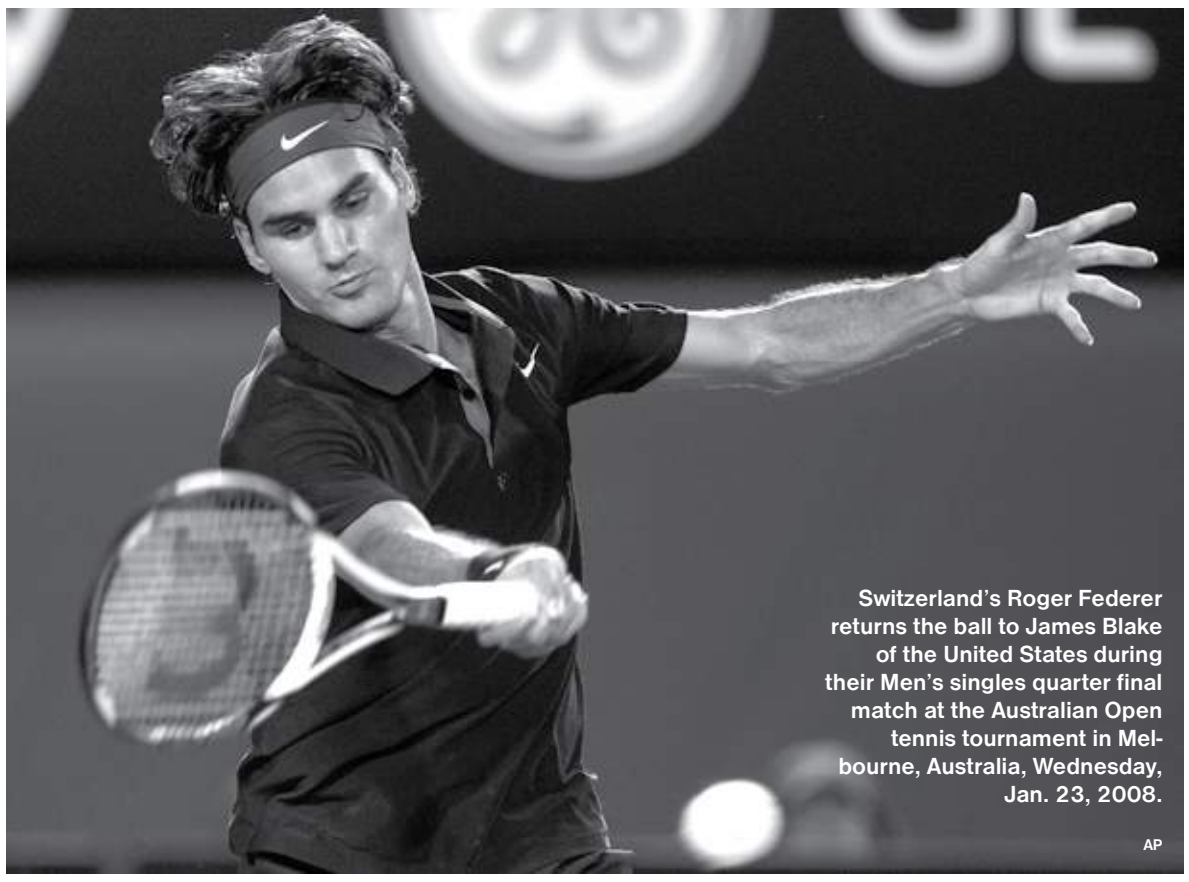
All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

General inquiries to this announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 / 3035.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P & S Officer

Federer reaches 15th straight Slam semis



Switzerland's Roger Federer returns the ball to James Blake of the United States during their Men's singles quarter final match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008.

AP

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—It's fine for Roger Federer to talk about the tension and nerves players feel before a Grand Slam semifinal. He is about to play in his 15th in a row, after all. But while it might reassure Novak Djokovic to hear that the man he'll be facing in his first Australian Open semifinal experiences some nerves too, he'd better be wary of the rhetoric.

"I remember when I made my first Grand Slam semifinals or my finals, I was so nervous," Federer said in an almost confiding tone, after beating James Blake 7-5, 7-6 (5), 6-4 on Wednesday. "Now it's been so many that it's almost become some sort of a routine. That's helped me a great deal being able to cope with those moments."

Federer has a brilliant conversion rate, reaching the last 10 Grand Slam finals and winning 12 of the last 18 dating to his first at Wimbledon in 2003.

The momentum and experience gives Federer the edge, he says: "Maybe they blink a little bit in those important moments, whereas maybe usually they wouldn't."

At 26, Federer is the oldest of the men's semifinalists, and will meet the youngest in 20-year-old Djokovic on Friday. The third-ranked Djokovic beat No. 5 David Ferrer of Spain 6-0, 6-3, 7-5 to complete a run to the semifinals at all four majors.

Rafael Nadal, who will play unseeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the other semifinal, is the longest-serving No. 2 in tennis history, and he's only 21. Nadal knows something about catching Federer on a bad day in a Grand Slam, though, after beating the Swiss star in the last two French Open finals.

Still, Federer prefers to see the No. 2 and No. 3 players as potential rivals at the end of each major.

"It's great that Rafa made it through, as well, with Novak. It's good for tennis," he said. "It's not just one guy, but it's a few guys now who have been playing very consistently.

"It's going to be interesting to see. I'm excited playing against Novak, no doubt."

Djokovic has two fellow Serbians in the women's semifinals.

No. 3 Jelena Jankovic ousted defending champion Serena Williams, and No. 4 Ana Ivanovic beat Venus Williams 7-6 (3), 6-4.

It's the second time in four majors that the Serbian trio has made it to the semis, repeating their run at the last French Open, and gives the end of the women's draw a distinctly eastern European accent.

Ivanovic, who lost the French final to Justine Henin, faces Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova, who advanced to her first Grand Slam semifinal with a 6-2, 6-2 defeat of Agnieszka Radwanska.

Jankovic takes on last year's losing finalist Maria Sharapova of Russia, who ended No. 1-ranked Henin's 32-match winning streak in the quarterfinals.

Ivanovic had never taken a set off Venus Williams in four meetings, including the semifinals at Wimbledon and the fourth round at the U.S. Open. But she was sharper from the start against Williams, who had her left thigh heavily wrapped.

"I was looking forward for some revenge," Ivanovic said. "I'm just so, so happy I managed to step up."

In the late men's doubles match, two-time defending champions and top-seeded Bob and Mike Bryan went down 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (5) to Mahesh Bhupathi and Mark Knowles in the quarterfinals.

Federer had more to play for against Blake than just his 8-0 record against the American and his bid for a 13th major, which would move him within one of Pete Sampras' record.

One of the anomalies of the rankings is that despite his domination last season—68-9 with a tour-high eight titles—Federer could have lost the top spot he's held since February 2004. Nadal would have taken over if he'd reached the Australian Open final and Federer lost to Blake.

"I heard rumors I could lose it," Federer said, mockingly. "Someone reminded me of it."

With a tiebreaker looming in the first set, Federer was at his usual best under pressure, breaking Blake as he served at 5-6.

Blake saved two set points at 4-5 in the second and three more after falling behind 6-2 in the tiebreaker, but Federer cashed his sixth.

He was cruising at 5-1 in the third set when Blake ran off three straight games, but Federer finally held to finish.

"I really went in thinking I had a good chance to win," Blake said. "I played pretty well, but he came up with some of his best at the right times, and that was the difference."

It was the same for Djokovic, who had set points against Federer in the U.S. Open final but could not convert them.

Against Ferrer, he was only troubled when it was time to close out, dropping his serve and losing his temper before regaining his composure.

"As the third player of the world, I have a lot of expectations and pressure, and sometimes it's difficult to stay calm on the court," Djokovic said. "I'm working on that. I'm still young and I still need to improve some elements in the game as well as the mental stabilization."

Things changed for Djokovic when he beat Federer and Nadal en route to the Montreal title in August, then reached the U.S. Open final. He is widely considered a worthy No. 3.

"They were saying the year after a breakthrough year is the most difficult one. But you know, I'm feeling really, really good," Djokovic said. "I'm playing with a lot of confidence.

"Playing a semifinal in a Grand Slam has become my routine in the last year or so. But I'm always trying to push myself on the most important events to play my best tennis, which I did, and it's a positive thing for the future."

Bonds asks for perjury charge dismissal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Barry Bonds asked a federal judge to dismiss perjury charges against him Wednesday, arguing the indictment is "scattershot" and noted for its "striking inartfulness." Bonds was charged in November with lying to a grand jury about his use of performance-enhancing drugs.

In the motion filed in San Francisco federal court, the former San Francisco Giant neither admits nor denies taking the drugs, but argues the questions asked by prosecutors during a December 2003 grand jury appearance were vague, ambiguous and confusing.

The lawyers said "the questions posed to him by two different prosecutors were frequently imprecise, redundant, overlapping and frequently compound."

Prosecutors asked Bonds several times whether personal trainer Greg Anderson supplied him with steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs beginning in 2000. Bonds answered "no" or "not at all," but his lawyers argued the questions were not clear.

Bonds' lawyers asked U.S. District Judge Susan Illston to toss the case or order prosecutors to streamline the indictment, which cites 19 different instances of Bonds' alleged lying. Bonds, a free agent, has pleaded not guilty to four charges of perjury and one count of obstruction.

Prosecutor Matt Parrella declined comment.

Such motions to dismiss cases are frequently filed, though rarely granted in federal criminal cases.

The court papers do offer an early glimpse at Bonds' legal strategy. Legal experts said prosecutors must prove Bonds lied and that their questions before the grand jury were direct and open to little interpretation.

Bonds' lawyers wrote "some portions of the indictment are so vague that it is simply impossible to be certain what untruths Mr. Bonds is alleged to have uttered."

Former Olympic cyclist Tammy Thomas, also charged with lying about her drug use, similarly argued last year for her case to be dismissed. She said multiple alleged instances of her lying were lumped confusingly into a single charge.

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston, who's hearing all cases related to the BALCO steroids ring, has not ruled on Thomas' motion.

Illston is scheduled to hear from Bonds' legal team Feb. 29.

Tulowitzki finalizes $31M, 6-year deal

DENVER (AP)—Troy Tulowitzki went into spring training last year just hoping to secure a spot on the Colorado Rockies' roster. That won't be a concern this season. Tulowitzki and the NL champions finalized a $31 million, six-year contract on Wednesday that includes a club option for 2014.

"It's surreal," Tulowitzki said. "It's awesome."

The 23-year-old slick-fielding shortstop showed up for his news conference wearing a black suit, white shirt and purple tie, and was flanked by teammates Matt Holliday and Garrett Atkins.

Runner-up for NL Rookie of the Year last season, Tulowitzki said he's just getting over the sting of being swept by the Boston Red Sox in the World Series.

However, the team's success played a big role in committing to a long-term deal.

"The guys on this team are great baseball players, but more than that they are great guys, great people," Tulowitzki said. "I took that into consideration. I looked at that and said, 'Wow, if we can keep the core guys together, we have the makings to be something special.'"

Holliday agreed last week to a $23 million, two-year contract. Tulowitzki is hopeful that deal gets lengthened.

"He can make tons of money if he tests the free-agent market," Tulowitzki said. "We know that, the organization knows that, everybody in baseball knows that. I'm going to be here for the next six years. I hope he wants to join me."

Tulowitzki gets $750,000 in each of the next two seasons, $3.5 million in 2010, $5.5 million in 2011, $8.5 million in 2012 and $10 million in 2013. The Rockies have a $15 million option for 2014 with a $2 million buyout.

Rockies general manager Dan O'Dowd was pleased to strike a deal with Tulowitzki, who hit .291 with 24 home runs and 99 RBIs last season.

"We knew we've got a very special player here," O'Dowd said. "In my career, they come along very rare."

Tulowitzki has spent the offseason in California, working out while living with his parents. Asked if he pays them rent, Tulowitzki grinned and said, "I'm proud to say that it's my place. They're paying me rent."

The fact the season didn't culminate in a World Series title is fueling Tulowitzki's drive.

"I took it hard," he said. "The fact we didn't win, that affected me for a while. If I was in the cage, or lifting, I used that as motivation."

Tulowitzki's life hasn't changed much since his breakout season. He can still go pretty much anywhere without being recognized, though he always seems to get noticed at 7-11.

"Someone might say something to me. But it's cool," he said. "I don't get as much attention as maybe (Todd) Helton and Holliday when I'm with those guys. They don't even know who I am. That's why I like being around Atkins, because nobody knows Garrett. I'm the guy when I'm around him."

He's now the guy with a lot of money. Yet Tulowitzki said the big paycheck won't increase the pressure on him. He's always expected big things from himself.

"I go into the year saying I don't want to make one error," said Tulowitzki, who led all qualifying shortstops in fielding percentage last season by committing only 11 errors in 834 chances. "You've got to strive for perfection. That's how you become better. I want to hit 1.000, I want to make no errors, never strike out. Obviously, it's not going to happen. But if you strive for perfection, you're going to be a better player."

Falcons hire Jaguars' Smith as new coach

ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta Falcons say Mike Smith is everything they want in a head coach, no matter that he's never been one before. The first test for Smith, the former Jacksonville defensive coordinator hired by Atlanta on Wednesday night, will be to outlast the 13-game stint of Bobby Petrino, the 2007 rookie coach who quit during the season to return to the college ranks.

"Mike possesses all of the key qualities we were looking for in a head coach," said general manager Thomas Dimitroff, in his first month on the job.

Dimitroff said the 48-year-old Smith, a 26-year coaching veteran, "has strong experience with winning teams, a track record of success, a solid, smart approach to the game, and high character and integrity."

Smith, the Jaguars' defensive coordinator since 2003, had his second interview with the Falcons on Friday.

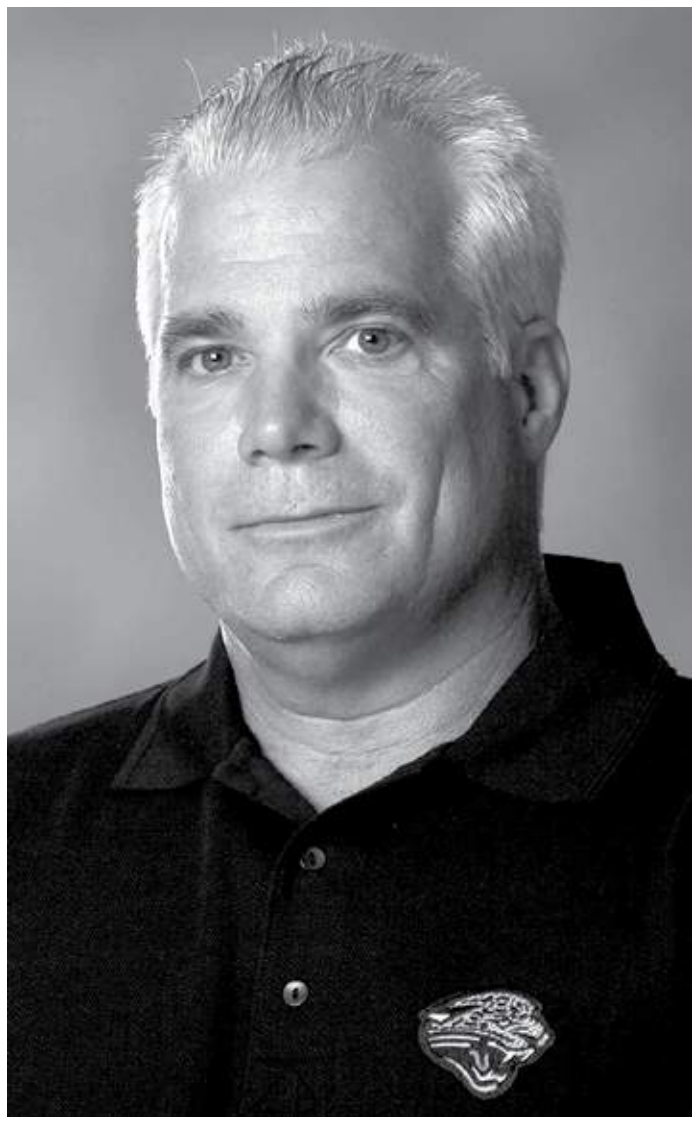
Smith said his emphasis on each side of the line will be the running game.

"My goal is to build a well-disciplined, hard-nosed football team that will be able to run the football on offense and stop the run on defense," Smith said. "I've always believed that's what makes championship teams."

Falcons quarterback Byron Leftwich was with Smith in Jacksonville for four years.

"I've played against his defense more than anybody in the world," Leftwich said. "I did it every day in practice for four years. I think he's a great guy for the job.

"A lot of people might not know his name, but I've seen the work he puts in every game, how guys were so prepared on Sundays that they knew exactly what teams were going to do."



AP

In this photo released by the NFL, Jacksonville Jaguars defensive coordinator Mike Smith is shown in 2007. The Atlanta Falcons have offered their head coaching job to Jacksonville defensive coordinator Mike Smith, a person familiar with the search said Wednesday, Jean. 23, 2008.

Smith, a former defensive assistant with Baltimore, had the league's No. 12 defense with Jacksonville this season after ranking second in 2006 and sixth in 2005.

Leftwich said Smith would never receive enough credit in Jacksonville because many assumed Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio, a former defensive coordinator, was the real mastermind of the defense.

Jaguars defensive end Marcellus Wiley confirmed that opinion when he said on ESPN Wednesday, "Jack Del Rio was the defensive coordinator, and if it wasn't him, it was (linebacker) Mike Peterson."

Wiley said Smith "was just a guy who stood at the front of the room when Jack Del Rio was leading the defense."

Wiley said the Falcons "really went down low on the totem pole."

Jacksonville defensive end Paul Spicer said his message to the Falcons is "they are getting a gem."

"He is very competitive," Spicer said of Smith. "He wants the best out of you. He demands the best of you. Mike Smith gained the trust of a lot of Jaguars players over the years. He has definitely gained my trust."

Jaguars defensive tackle Marcus Stroud said Smith is "definitely a deserving coach."

"He's been a good coach for a long time," Stroud said. "He will bring stability and a tough-minded approach. He's a leader and will do a great job in Atlanta."

Leftwich said he was aware of Wiley's comments but said of Smith: "I was with him for four years. Somebody had to be calling those plays in Jacksonville. It was him.

"We always said Smitty would be a great head coach because the time he put in and the way he interacted with players and how seriously he took his job."

The Falcons were mostly woeful in their 4-12 season, but most of the few bright spots were on defense, where Smith will find several established or rising stars: John Abraham, Rod Coleman, Keith Brooking, DeAngelo Hall, Lawyer Milloy and Michael Boley.

Even before hiring Dimitroff, Blank's search focused on defensive coaches. The Falcons may try to build a strong defense around those established players while rebuilding an offense devastated by the exit of Michael Vick, the star quarterback who was the face of the franchise before his guilty plea to federal dogfighting charges.

Vick is serving a 23-month sentence. He also is under an indefinite suspension by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell.

A key early decision by Smith and Dimitroff will be whether to chose a new quarterback with the Falcons' first pick, as high as No. 3 overall, in the April draft.

The Falcons tried three starting quarterbacks in 2007, but Leftwich, Joey Harrington and Chris Redman are not seen as long-term answers at the position.

The loss of Vick was too much for Petrino to overcome. Petrino quit with a 3-10 record to take a job at Arkansas, leaving secondary coach Emmitt Thomas to finish out the 4-12 season as the interim head coach.

Smith will be Atlanta's sixth coach since December 2003. Before Petrino quit, Dan Reeves and Jim Mora were fired. Wade Phillips and Thomas worked three games each as interim replacements.

Smith first interviewed with Blank before the Jaguars lost to the New England Patriots in a divisional playoff game. His second meeting with the team was his first opportunity to meet Dimitroff.

Other candidates included Minnesota Vikings defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier and former Ravens defensive coordinator Rex Ryan.

The team did not wait on an interview with New York Giants defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo. The Falcons were denied permission to interview Spagnuolo while the Giants, preparing for the Super Bowl, are in the postseason.

NFL BRIEFS

Chargers' Rivers has surgery on torn ACL

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers had surgery Wednesday to repair the torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee. The surgery was performed by Dr. David Chao of the team's medical staff. Rivers will rehab for up to six months. Rivers was hurt in a 28-24 victory over the Indianapolis Colts in the divisional playoffs, but was able to play Sunday in the Chargers' 21-12 loss to undefeated New England in the AFC championship game. Rivers revealed Monday that he had arthroscopic surgery a day after the Indianapolis game to clean out damaged cartilage. He said that was the only way he was able to play against the Patriots.

Terrell Owens will be back with Cowboys

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones plans to pay Terrell Owens' $3 million roster bonus, which means the All-Pro wide receiver will be back for the final season of his three-year, $25 million contract. "Yes, we are going to have Terrell back," Jones said Tuesday at the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala. Jones added that a contract extension for Owens is something he would consider "down the line." Owens finished with 81 catches for 1,355 yards and a team-record 15 touchdown receptions. The future of wide receiver Terry Glenn appears uncertain, Jones said. Glenn missed 15 games after arthroscopic surgery on his right knee. He'll need microfracture surgery on the knee, a procedure that typically requires a year to recover from. "That's something I will sit down over the days ahead to talk to him about," Jones said.

Bucs give Jon Gruden three-year extension

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Coach Jon Gruden was rewarded Tuesday for Tampa Bay's worst-to-first turnaround in the NFC South with a three-year contract extension that runs through the 2011 season.

Gruden, who had one year left on a contract that was extended after the Buccaneers won the Super Bowl five seasons ago, earned about $4.3 million in 2007.

General manager Bruce Allen also was given a three-year extension, keeping him under contract for another four seasons.

Gruden and Allen were attending Senior Bowl workouts in Mobile, Ala., and unavailable for comment. Financial terms were not announced.

The Bucs rebounded from a 4-12 finish in 2006 to go 9-8 and win the NFC South this season. It was the team's third division title in six years under Gruden, who is 48-48 in the regular season and 3-2 in the playoffs since moving to Tampa Bay from Oakland in 2002.

Owner Malcolm Glazer and his sons paid a hefty price—four high draft picks and $8 million cash—to pry the coach away from the Raiders. The move produced immediate dividends with a Super Bowl title in Gruden's first season, however the Bucs have missed the playoffs three of five years since then.

The contract extensions are a clear indication that the Glazers agree with Gruden and Allen that the franchise is back on the right track.

The Bucs overcame numerous key injuries to escape the NFC South cellar, and Allen said earlier this month that the club will head into the upcoming free agency signing period about $23 million under the salary cap.

Despite losing to the New York Giants in the wild-card round of the playoffs and dropping four of five games down the stretch overall, Gruden considers the future bright because of the rapid development of several young players and the financial flexibility the team has to pursue offseason additions.

Allen, who also worked with Gruden in Oakland, joined the Bucs in 2004. He inherited a tight salary-cap situation that made it difficult to compete for top-tier free agents until last winter, when the team landed quarterback Jeff Garcia.

Memphis wins 1st game as nation's No. 1

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Chris Douglas-Roberts scored 20 points, Derrick Rose added 14 points and top-ranked Memphis beat pesky Tulsa 56-41 Wednesday night to avoid the fate that befell the Tigers their only other time with the No. 1 ranking 25 years earlier.

After winning each of its last six games by at least 20 points, Memphis (18-0, 5-0 Conference USA) didn't take a double-digit lead until Douglas-Roberts' two-handed jam with 6:21 remaining made it 48-38.

Rose set up the dunk by tipping away Calvin Walls' pass and then tracking it down in the frontcourt before firing a pass to Douglas-Roberts.

Shawn Taggart followed with a 3-pointer—only his sixth 3 in 11 attempts this season—and Douglas-Roberts added a layup off a baseline inbounds pass as Memphis reeled off nine straight points to go up 54-38 with 4:02 left.

The last time Memphis reached No. 1, Virginia Tech was waiting hours later to pull off a 64-56 upset on Jan. 10, 1983. It took the school just over a quarter-century to get back to the top.

Taggart, a reserve who'd played only 10 minutes in the Tigers' two previous games, ended up with 14 points for his third-highest total of the season and Joey Dorsey had a career-high 19 rebounds.

Calvin Walls led the Golden Hurricane (9-7, 1-3) with 12 points.

The Tigers' inside tandem of Dorsey and Robert Dozier was neutralized much of the night by 7-footer Jerome Jordan, and the Tigers couldn't get much going from outside.

Memphis shot only 37.9 percent, its third-lowest mark of the season, and was 4-for-16 from 3-point range but was able to make up for it by holding the Golden Hurricane to their season-low in scoring and only 22 percent shooting in the second half.

Tulsa drew its first sellout crowd in over two years, and the first capacity crowd at the Reynolds Center for an opponent other than Oklahoma since sixth-ranked Gonzaga visited in February 2004.

The Golden Hurricane fell behind 12-4 early after three straight baskets by Douglas-Roberts but were able to stay in it by locking down on defense and holding Memphis to only 35 percent shooting in the first half.

Sam Mitchell's putback got Tulsa within 28-24 at halftime, but the Golden Hurricane missed six of their first seven shots in the second half and missed their chance to put real pressure on the Tigers.

Memphis has won 28 straight Conference USA games.

Cavaliers post most lopsided win in 14 years in thrashing of Wizards

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Cavaliers posted their most lopsided win in 14 years by destroying the Washington Wizards 121-85 on Wednesday to post their season-high fifth straight NBA victory.

LeBron James scored 23 points and Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 24 without missing from the floor for Cleveland.

After an uninspiring first two months, the Cavaliers have regrouped to win 11 of 13, and at the halfway point, they look more capable of defending their Eastern Conference title than at any other time this season.

The Cavs outrebounded the Wizards 53-29 and outscored them 69-39 in the second half.

Hornets 96, Trail Blazers 81

In New Orleans, the home side extended its season-best winning streak to six games with victory over Portland.

Jannero Pargo scored a season-high 24 points in 24 minutes as the Hornets overcome an early 12-point deficit and surged into the lead for good in the second quarter.

The Hornets have won 14 of 16 games and lead the Southwest Division after their best first half of a season in franchise history.

Portland wound up 3-4 on its seven-game road trip.

Raptors 114, Celtics 112

In Boston, Jose Calderon converted a go-ahead, three-point play with 10.5 seconds left to lead Toronto past Boston.

Calderon finished with 24 points and 13 assists for the Raptors, scoring four of Toronto's 15 3-pointers.

Boston had won three in a row and hadn't lost to an Atlantic Division rival in 10 tries this season.

Toronto moved 11 games behind the Celtics in the division.

Pistons 86, 76ers 78

In Philadelphia, Detroit snapped a rare three-game losing streak with victory over Philadelphia.

Richard Hamilton scored 21 points and Chauncey Billups had 19 for the Pistons, who have the second-best record in the Eastern Conference but entered the game trying to avoid their first four-game skid in three years.

The Pistons have won eight of their past nine games against the Sixers.

Philadelphia has lost 10 of 12 and what few fans turned out left in droves in the fourth quarter.

Timberwolves 117, Suns 107

In Minneapolis, Minnesota won consecutive games for the first time this season by downing Phoenix.

Al Jefferson had a career-high 39 points and 15 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' Larry Hughes (32) dunks against Washington Wizards' Caron Butler during the thirds quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008, in Cleveland.

The Suns had their four-game winning streak stopped and lost to strugglers Minnesota for the second time this season.

Spurs 103, Lakers 91

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 28 points and 17 rebounds to lead San Antonio past Los Angeles.

Six Spurs scored in double digits, and they broke open the game in the third quarter, sparked by a 14-0 run.

Magic 112, Grizzlies 85

In Memphis, Tennessee, Orlando made a team-record 18 3-pointers to sink Memphis.

Hedo Turkoglu scored 26 points, including 6-of-8 outside the arc, for Orlando, which hit 55 percent of its 3s. The Magic's previous record for 3-pointers was 16, set against Atlanta in 1996.

Mavericks 102, Bobcats 95

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Dallas withstood a late rally by Charlotte.

Devin Harris scored 23 points and Josh Howard added 21 points and had 12 rebounds.

The Bobcats have lost successive games.

Bulls 108, Pacers 95

In Chicago, the home side beat Indiana despite having its two best players injured.

Kirk Hinrich scored a career-high 38 points for the Bulls, who learned earlier in the day that forward Luol Deng would miss one to three weeks because of his recurring left Achilles' tendinitis. Then, they found out that leading scorer Ben Gordon would sit out with a sprained right wrist.

Nuggets 107, Hawks 100

In Denver, Allen Iverson scored 29 points to lift Denver to victory over Atlanta.

Linas Kleiza added 23 for the Nuggets, who played without All-Star Carmelo Anthony—missing with an ankle sprain.

Atlanta has lost six straight road games.

Clippers 111, Kings 85

In Los Angeles, Chris Kaman added another benchmark to his breakout season with 21 rebounds and 20 points to lead Los Angeles over Sacramento.

It was the fifth time in Kaman's five NBA seasons that he's had at least 20 points and 20 rebounds in a game.

Rookie Al Thornton scored 23 for the Clippers.

The Kings committed 22 turnovers and fell to 0-9 on the road this season against Western Conference teams.

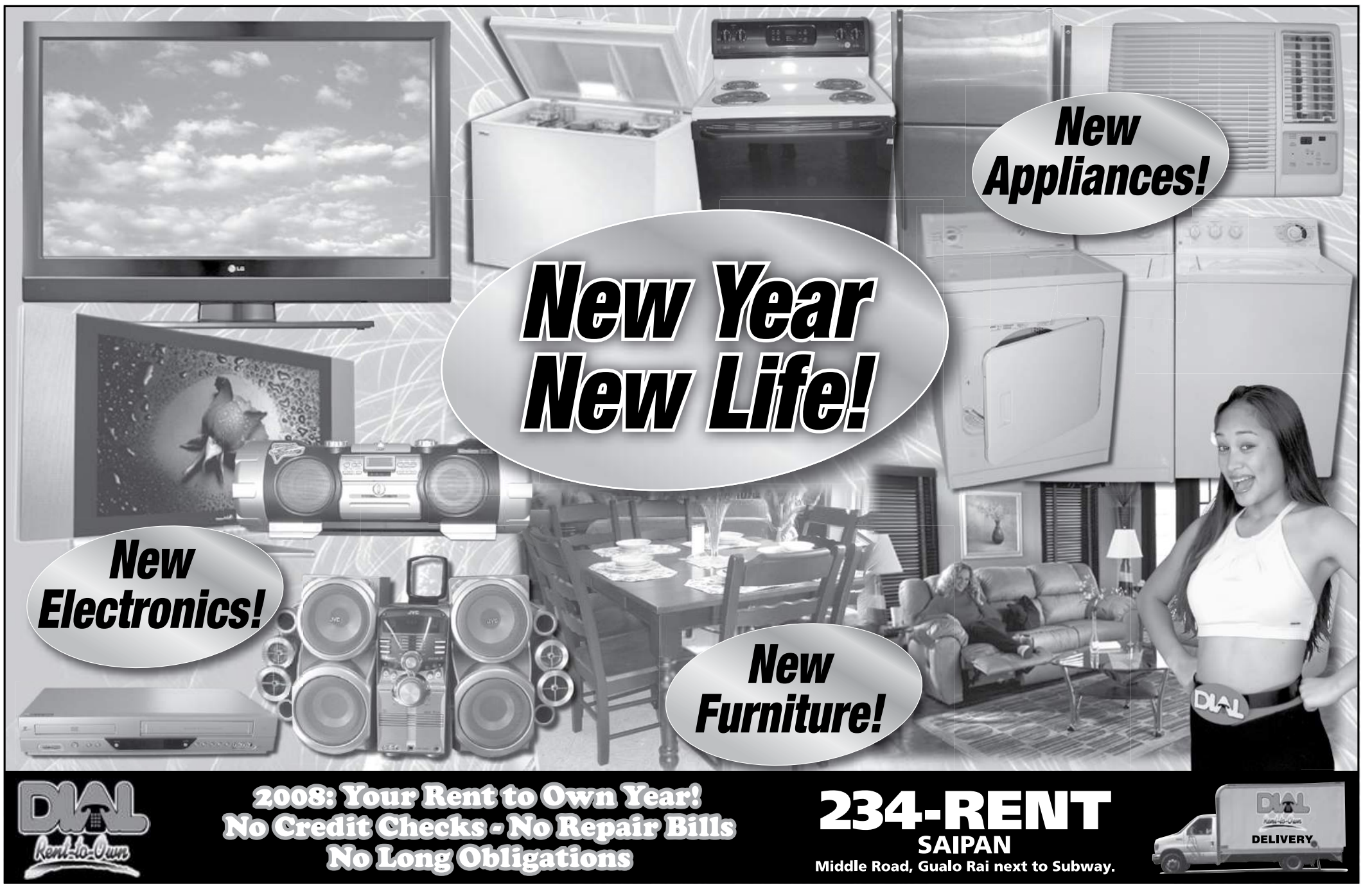
Rockets 109, SuperSonics 107

In Seattle, the home side slumped to its 12th straight loss in defeat to Houston.

Tracy McGrady scored 28 points and took over in the final 90 seconds for the Rockets.

Nursing a left knee injury, McGrady scored 18 points after halftime and was responsible for Houston's final eight points, as the Rockets rallied from a 99-89 deficit with 5 minutes left.

Seattle has yet to win in 2008. Its 12-game skid is the worst single-season losing streak in franchise history.



Guban grabs first Ace of 2008

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Mando Guban won the first monthly tournament of the year for the Fil-Taga Golf Association last Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Guban finished a stroke head of Fr. Manny Corcuera after his gross score of 83 was sliced by his 14 handicap into a net of 69 to win the club's January Ace of the Month Tournament.

"I was just luckier than them last Sunday, my shots were connecting," said Guban in a short but sweet email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Corcuera finished second with his net 70 built around his 81 gross and 11 handicap. Twelve-handicap Ralph Yumul came away with the third best score of the day, firing a 71 net after shooting an 83 gross.

Jhun Calma and Senate president Pete Reyes closed out the Top 5 of the January ace, carding net scores of 72 and 73, respectively.

A total of 19 weekend warriors took part in last weekend's golf competition. The rest of the players, with their net scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Henry Bautista (73); Nestor Siruelo (73); Greg Gamboa (73); Edgar Abalos (76); Freddie Cataluna (76); Rey Ferraz (78); Gil Faller (79); Adony Matutino (79); Rene Batallones (80); Nono Bostre (81); and Manny Po (82).

Fil-Taga also welcomed two new members last Sunday in the persons of Leo and Dan Ganacias. The two scored handicap unaided 87 and 98, respectively.

Fil-Taga's 2007 officers are led by president Jun Dela Cruz Jr., vice-president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, and treasurer Arnaldo Guban.

Its board of directors is made up of Fr. Manny Corcuera, Miguel Cruz, Jr., Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batallones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan.

Fil-Taga membership dues for 2007 are also due on the second day of the tournament and those who want to enter in the January Ace need to pay 50 percent, or $25 of the fee.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

SEDA captains meeting next Friday

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Saipan Electronic Darts Association will have a captains meeting next week, Feb. 1, 7pm at Len's 5 Tavern along Beach Road, Garapan.

League secretary Charlotte Tenepere said aside from the captains of participating teams, all new and interested players are welcome to take part in the *tete-a-tete*. She said the agenda for the meeting will revolve around the upcoming 31st season of the Winter/Spring League, which is set to open either in late February or late March.

For more information about the SEDA captains meeting next Friday, contact Tenepere at 233-4397.

Oleai, Porky's, and Jonny's led the winners of the Fall/Winter with a total of 16 trophies in the six divisions contested in the three-month long darts league.

Oleai and Porky's each won three division championships, while Jonny's were champions in one division.

The Oleai Black Stallions were crowned the Masters division champions, followed by Oleai's D' Compañeros, with the Krystal Wild Guys placing third.

Oleai then added the Bud Light Cup titles in the Masters and C divisions when the Stallions and Island Mix Shooters, which also placed third in the C league of the regular season, brought down their opponents in the season-ending tournament.

Porky's Porketteers and Mixed Pokie topped the Thursday B and Ladies divisions in the regular season. Mixed Pokie added the Ladies division title in the Bud Light Cup.

Porky's owner Bruce Bateman also collected trophies in the A and Tuesday B divisions after Put It In came in third and the PC Destroyers placed second in each division.

Bud's Hammer Tim and Jonny's You Know finished second and third in the Thursday B division, while Bud's Best and Jonny's Fearless completed the top three in the Ladies class.

TIGERS

From Page 44

and the Tigers defense foiled them in the bottom of the seventh.

Duenas forced George Castro and Ben Mesa to consecutive grounders with the steady Celis catching the ball and marking back-to-back defensive throws to Dennis Ngeskebei at first base for the quick two outs.

Celebration erupted when second baseman Jess Mesa scooped up another Greg F. Camacho grounder and quickly made the relay throw to Ngeskebei for the third and last out that preserved the win.

Celis went 3-for-3 in the entire game, scoring two runs and had three RBIs, while Jeff Cabrera went 4-for-5 with three runs, a double, and one RBI. Ben Cabrera had a two-RBI double in the first inning and also scored one run.

Ivan Igitol, who struck out in his first at bat, settled down after that and went 2-for-4 with a double and two RBIs.

Paul Camacho led the D9ers, going 3-for-3 with two runs scored to go with his double, triple, and two RBIs.

The D9ers, which won the pennant with their league best 8-1 record, coasted to a 23-0 blanking of the Dreams last Jan. 18 to earn the first finals berth.

HENSLEY

From Page 44

first round of the stepladder finals. He scored a 222-191 upset over the former CNMI National Youth bowler to arrange a semi-final showdown with the second ranked and veteran kegler Dannie Robles.

Hensley pulled off another upset, 202-172, and completed his amazing run with a 212-159 demolition over No. 6 Ador Dimaano.

Hensley said the win was important for him as he finally broke out from the "league bowler" tag. "There was a monkey on my back for so long telling me that I was only a "league bowler" because of the fact that I always played bad when it comes to tournaments."

"I sure hope that this prestigious victory is a sign that I [am back] and a force to be reckon with [in other bowling] tournaments," said Hensley, who will be celebrating the fourth year anniversary of his perfect game this coming Feb. 10.

Almost four years ago, Hensley bowled the first perfect game after two decades on Feb. 10, 2004. More bowlers followed after Hensley with Robert Talavera doing it four times.

After bowling a perfect game, Hensley was limited to competing in bowling leagues that he also uses as his practice and training time. "I only play in three leagues a week, which is all the practice I get."

Hensley, however, is confident that despite not doing well in monthly tournaments and failing to make the Top 12 in the BRS, he considers himself one of CNMI's best bowlers. " I know I am of topnotch quality."

The win also reminded him that he is not just a perfect 300 gamer or a bowler that averages in the 290s but of championship-caliber. "And that's what makes [this win] very special to me. It reminded me of how I can play."

Hensley said he virtually grew up in a bowling alley since his parents, Don and Rizza, are also good bowlers. "At age seven I remember having my birthday [party] at the Saipan Bowling Center where I also got my first bowling ball as a present."

"Dodong Eparwa drilled the holes on my ball and he has been doing it since then. After some years of coaching from my biggest fan, who is my dad, I got positive feedback from people who had watched me practice."

Hensley said prior to the King of the Lanes finals, veteran bowlers Jack Cruz and Joe Ada had seen something different on the way he has been playing and advised him to stick to his game plan.

He said he dedicates his win to the two women in his life, his wife Madonna and their daughter Kenzie. "And to my biggest fans, my parents."

Hensley said he does not know what will happen to him in 2008 but he would surely play his best in every tournament and league that he would join. "Bowling is not easy unless your name is Robert Talavera. So, I'll just take it one tournament at a time and see how far the Lord will take me. But [I assure you], there will be more fire in every tournament I play in."

JR. NATIONALS

From Page 44

Sonics of coach Jesse Tudela.

The Junior Nationals escaped with a 99-97 triumph over the Ulloa's, while the Suns cruised to an 80-62 decision against the Bombers.

Enjoying an 85-74 lead, midway in the fourth quarter, the Junior Nationals did not anticipated a barrage of 3-pointers from the Ulloa's threatening them in the final seconds of the match.

Time, however, was on the Junior Nationals' side as they tried to use up the clock and relied on the steady nerves of Bill Babauta, Keoni Chariton, and Steve Tenorio to preserve the win at the free throw line.

The three combined for 8-for-8 shooting at the charity stripe after the Ulloa's fouled them to freeze the clock with hopes of missed free throws.

Jericho Cruz scattered 22 points to lead the Junior Nationals, while Chariton chipped in 20 more. Marvin Rabauliman netted 18 points, while Babauta and Allen Moses scored 12 markers each.

Dave Sablan had a game-high 35 points, while brothers John and Joshua Sablan scored 25 and 23 apiece.

In the second game, the Suns used a first quarter scoring run in waltzing past the Bombers, 80-62.

Ed Diaz' triple ignited that scoring blitz that helped turn an 8-6 lead in the opening minutes of the first quarter to a 13-point bubble, 25-12, after 10 minutes of play.

There was no stopping the Suns after that as they buried basket after basket while the Bombers, showing little resistance, missed and committed turnover after turnover at the other end.

The Suns even enjoyed a 45-27 halftime lead. The tempo of the game did not change in the second half that let the Sonny Flores-mentored squad cruise to victory.

Edsel Mendoza scored 20 points, while Jawn Joyner and Elmer Esdrelon netted 13 and 11 apiece.

Richard Brostrom paced the Andy Neapail-coached Bombers with 18 points, while Spencer Johnson, Joel Punzalan, and Ed Palma combined for 30 markers.

First Game

CNMI Junior Nationals 99 – Cruz 22, Chariton 20, Rabauliman 18, Moses 12, Babauta 12, Tenorio 6, Jung 4, Basa 2, Deleon Guerrero 2, Norita 1.

D-1 Ulloa's 97 – D. Sablan 35, J. Sablan 25, Jo. Sablan 23, H. Sablan 6, F. Palacios 4, D. Palacios 2, Yangilmau 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-31, 41-47, 74-67, 99-97.

Second Game

Saipan Stevedore Suns 80 – Mendoza 20, Joyner 13, Esdrelon 11, Diaz 9, Baculod 8, Rasa 6, Wesley 6, John 4, Palacios 3.

Bombers 62 – Brostrom 18, Johnson 11, Punzalan 10, Palma 9, Berline 7, Warfield 3, Sarmiento 2, Valencia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-12, 45-27, 63-43, 80-62.

INSPIRATIONAL

From Page 44

instead of the TagaKids crossing the finish line at Micro Beach along with his father with a time of 5:56:03.

Aside from the Sakanos, returning for the Saipan Sportsfest this year are professional triathletes and defending champions Olivier Marceau and Renata Bucher of Switzerland.

Marceau is a two-time Olympian, four-time XTERRA Saipan champion, and three-time Tagaman winner. He is currently training at Sunshine Coast, Australia with Bucher.

Aside from training for the Pacific Islands Club double, Marceau is also preparing for the Beijing Summer Olympics in August as he is vying for a spot in the Swiss National Triathlon Team.

Bucher, the three-time XTERRA Saipan titlist, is happy to return to Saipan for the fourth straight time as she aims to defend her crown.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	33	7	.825	–
Toronto	23	19	.548	11
New Jersey	18	23	.439	15 1/2
Philadelphia	16	27	.372	18 1/2
New York	13	28	.317	20 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	30	13	.698	–
Cleveland	23	18	.561	6
Indiana	19	24	.442	11
Chicago	17	24	.415	12
Milwaukee	16	26	.381	13 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	27	17	.614	–
Washington	22	18	.550	3
Atlanta	17	21	.447	7
Charlotte	16	26	.381	10
Miami	8	32	.200	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	29	12	.707	–
Dallas	28	13	.683	1
San Antonio	27	13	.675	1 1/2
Houston	23	19	.548	6 1/2
Memphis	12	30	.286	17 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	25	16	.610	–
Portland	25	17	.595	1/2
Utah	24	18	.571	1 1/2
Seattle	9	33	.214	16 1/2
Minnesota	7	34	.171	18

Pacific Division

Phoenix	30	13	.698	–
L.A. Lakers	27	13	.675	1 1/2
Golden State	25	18	.581	5
Sacramento	18	23	.439	11
L.A. Clippers	13	25	.342	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 121, Washington 85
New Orleans 97, Portland 81
Toronto 114, Boston 112
Detroit 86, Philadelphia 78
Minnesota 117, Phoenix 107
San Antonio 103, L.A. Lakers 91
Orlando 112, Memphis 85
Dallas 102, Charlotte 95
Chicago 108, Indiana 95
Denver 107, Atlanta 100
L.A. Clippers 111, Sacramento 85
Houston 109, Seattle 107

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, Clev.	35	369	252	1038	29.7
Bryant, LAL	39	360	275	1068	27.4
Iverson, Den.	40	359	319	1079	27.0
Anthony, Den.	40	374	248	1021	25.5
Wade, Mia.	32	277	238	799	25.0
Jefferson, N.J.	41	308	325	972	23.7
Redd, Mil.	38	286	225	870	22.9
Boozer, Utah	41	387	149	923	22.5
Stoudemire, Phoe.	39	323	225	874	22.4
Yao, Hou.	41	331	252	914	22.3
Davis, G.S.	43	329	202	956	22.2
Bosh, Tor.	36	270	258	799	22.2
Howard, Orl.	43	322	307	951	22.1
J. Johnson, Atl.	37	287	169	818	22.1
Nowitzki, Dall.	40	312	224	883	22.1
Butler, Wash.	38	315	159	829	21.8
Jamison, Wash.	39	311	153	840	21.5
Wallace, Char.	40	292	223	854	21.4
Paul, N.O.	38	300	160	800	21.1
Carter, N.J.	36	267	172	751	20.9

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Bynum, LAL	189	297	.636
Biedrins, G.S.	192	307	.625
Chandler, N.O.	195	321	.607
Howard, Orl.	322	542	.594
Childress, Atl.	139	238	.584
Stoudemire, Phoe.	323	555	.582
O'Neal, Mia.	187	322	.581
Smith, Minn.	164	298	.550
Boozer, Utah	387	709	.546
Brewer, Utah	193	354	.545

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, Orl.	43	152	494	646	15.0
Camby, Den.	39	130	427	557	14.3
Kaman, LAC	37	120	388	508	13.7
Chandler, N.O.	39	169	309	478	12.3
Jefferson, Minn.	40	155	325	480	12.0
Duncan, S.A.	35	111	274	385	11.0
Boozer, Utah	41	111	332	443	10.8
Yao, Hou.	41	128	311	439	10.7
Jamison, Wash.	39	109	304	413	10.6
Marion, Phoe.	41	83	338	421	10.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, Phoe.	41	492	12.0
Kidd, N.J.	40	421	10.5
Paul, N.O.	38	397	10.4
Williams, Utah	42	387	9.2
Tinsley, Ind.	35	305	8.7
Calderon, Tor.	41	346	8.4
Davis, G.S.	43	347	8.1
James, Clev.	35	260	7.4
Billups, Det.	40	285	7.1
Felton, Char.	39	276	7.1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friends of Wakai Nekko No Kai says thanks

MARK RABAGO
Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament champion Ben Jones received his cash prize from Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez. Also in photo are Saipan Mayor's Office public information officer Anthony Benavente and the reigning Liberation Royal Princess.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Organizers of the Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament yesterday thanked supporters of the one-day golf fundraising held last Wednesday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Marianas Visitors Authority board director J.M. Guerrero said Wakai Nekko No Kai Foundation president Hideo Kato thanked everyone who supported the golf benefit.

"Kato is very appreciative for all the friends here on Saipan that have come to rescue him. He sent us a message last week thanking all the friends on Saipan for the wonderful support and cooperation being extended to his group," said Guerrero during the awards ceremony immediately after the tournament.

Guerrero said despite their efforts, the 40th voyage of the floating university from Japan sadly will not push through this year.

"They were supposed to make this year the 40th voyage but due to financial problems, that will not materialize. We're still working on the 40th voyage hopefully next year and through fundraising like this, we hope to convince them to come back and accomplish their goal of coming to Saipan for the 40th time," he said.

Last weekend, organizers of the 2008 Winter Festival of Runs put aside 10 percent of registration fees, amounting to $500, to the foundation. Guerero said he hopes the golf tourney Wednesday would raise an additional $5,000.

Aside from the Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament and Festival of Runs, Saipan Walking Association's annual Valentine's Walk on Feb. 9 will set aside proceeds to Mr. Kato's group, according to Guerrero.

In addition, local students are helping out by selling T-shirts and selling them for $20 each all over the island.

Benjamin Jones topped the Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament after he finished the Peoria-format competition with the best net score of 70.2.

Jones was followed in the leaderboard by a couple of former national players in Nick Sablan and Jeff Taylor, each finishing with an identical net score of 70.8. Another national player, 2003 and 2006 member Jess Wabol, finished fourth and part of the money list with a net score of 71.2.

For landing in the Top 4, Jones, Sablan, Taylor, and Wabol went home with $400, $300, $200, and $100, respectively.

A total of 58 players took part in the weekday golf benefit.

The companies and individuals, meanwhile, that supported the tournament were Budget Car Rental, Big Boys Marine, Tournament of Champions, Microl Corporation, DFS, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Stars & Stripes, Coral Ocean Pont, Saipan Sea Venture, Kingfisher Golf Links, MARPAC, Bizaid Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan World Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Truong's, Fleming Hotel, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Coco Restaurant, Seabridge, Capricciosa, Hula Girl, Shelly's Pizza, Aqua Resort Club, Kinpachi, 360 Restaurant, Kan Pacific, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Tori HIDE, Mayor of Saipan, Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, Tropex Garden, Saipan Marine, Saiship Company. KL Carr, Hit Tours. Team PDI, Marianas Visitors Authority, Tan Holdings Company, Magic 100, PTI, Saipan Tailor Shop, Herman's Bakery/MITA Travel (Juan Guerrero), Hertz Rent a Car, Cesar Dumatol, and Lee Cabrerra.

4 teams take part in 3-on-3 hoops

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Four teams joined last Saturday's 3-on-3 basketball tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with one of the squads composed of an all-female high school quartet from Kagman High School.

The African American Cultural Preservation Committee Inc. organized the tournament in time for the Jan. 21 celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the CNMI.

A team composed of Jawn Joyner, Chris Camacho, Spencer Johnson, and Glen Mercurio bested the three other squads to claim the top honors in the one-day, single round-robin format tournament.

Runner-up honors went to the team of Gyles W. Ruluked, Marsh Barao, Craig Ruluked, Bo Yamada, Leo Ruluked, Kuich Damian, and Ace Yoshida, while CNMI Junior Nationals members Bill Babauta and Damien Deleon Guerrero teamed up with Rodney Salas, and Champ Untalan to place third.

Special mention were given to the KHS all-girls squad composed of twins Yvonne and Yvette Bennett, Dion Diaz, and Chelsea Ruluked for joining the tournament and playing against men's teams.

Jan. 21 marked the second year that Martin Luther King Jr. Day was observed in the CNMI since Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed the bill into law to commemorate the famed human rights activist.

The official Martin Luther King Day ceremony was held last Jan. 20, Sunday, at the American Memorial Park.

The AACPCI officials are Joe Hill (president), Earl Warren (vice president), and Dorothea Bryant (secretary).

Registration still open for 7-on-7 women's league

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Registration is still open for the upcoming 7-on-7 league of the Women's Football Committee and Saturday will be the next schedule of practice for the upcoming season.

The final day of practice will be held tomorrow, Jan. 26, from 9am to 11am at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

More than 60 female players, composed mostly of rookies and veterans, are already registered and have been divided evenly into five teams. The cost of registration is $10 per player.

The season opens on Feb. 2, Saturday, with the team co-captained by Vanessa Pritchard and Toi Smith playing against a Laura Williams- and Dora Camacho-led squad at 8am.

Divya Sharma and Katie Busenkell will lead their team against Alleny Tenorio and Lovelle D'Lonsol in the 9:15am second game.

The fifth team captained by Maria Ornes and Nicollette Seckeler drew a bye.

Becca Newman, who is co-organizing the 7-on-7 league with Pritchard, said if female players still want to register they should just attend tomorrow's practice and sign up. All new players will be added to the five existing teams.

Newman added they also held the final day of the women's boot camp last Saturday, Jan. 19, where rookies honed their newfound skills while veterans polished their craft.

Patty Coleman, Lindsay Davis, Meaghan Hassel Shearer, Zoe Jewell, Emily Gries, Amanda Allen, and Dean and Alleny Tenorio alternated in conducting the drills.

Coleman and Davis conducted the drills on shooting and aiming at the goals, while Shearer and Jewell shared tips on the finer points of defense. Gries and Allen discussed the proper shielding of the ball, while the Tenorios taught all participants about fair play.

Another scrimmage, where the new players were mixed up with the veterans, took place after the drills to give the rookies the chance to practice what they have just learned for the day.

The boot camp started last Jan. 12 at the American Memorial Park field where participants had a great time learning the "beautiful game."

For more information about the 7-on-7 league, email Newman at rnewman112@hotmail.com or Vanessa Pritchard at holly_jollyvkp@hotmail.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Women's Football League veteran Becky Covarrubias, right, teaches a rookie player the basic skills of the sport in last Saturday's boot camp at the American Memorial Park field.

Friends of Wakai Nekko No Kai says thanks

Organizers of the Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament yesterday thanked supporters of the one-day golf fundraising held last Wednesday. **43**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Federer reaches 15th straight Slam semis

It's fine for Roger Federer to talk about the tension and nerves players feel before a Grand Slam semifinal. He is about to play in his 15th in a row, after all. **39**

Tigers are champions of SML masters

JON PEREZ

Atty. Bob O'Connor Tigers celebrate at home plate after beating the Saipan Stevedore D9ers, 12-6, in the Masters Baseball League finals Wednesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Atty. Bob O'Connor Tigers fulfilled its date with destiny Wednesday night after pulling off a 12-6 win over the Saipan Stevedore D9ers in the Masters Baseball League finals at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

It was the fourth straight win for the Tigers since dropping a 7-8 decision against the same team last Dec. 29. They had not lost after that even beating twice the second ranked Team Rubak of Atty. Johnson Toribiong.

Their winning streak began with a 21-11 crushing of Rubak on Jan. 4, which was a make-up match of their rained-out game last Nov. 11. They followed it up with a 20-9 thrashing of the Viva Poker Korean Dreams on Jan. 5 for their final elimination round game that gave them a third-best 3-6 record heading into the playoffs.

They went up against Rubak in the playoffs where they trailed the head-to-head match up at 1-2. They evened things up after a 9-7 win to foil the planned Rubak-D9ers finals match.

With momentum clearly on their side, the Tigers did not waste any opportunity Wednesday night, using a four-run first inning as enough cushion to beat the highly favored D9ers.

Jeff Cabrera had a lead-off double then put the Tigers on the scoreboard on a Jerry Ayuyu single. Reno Celis also singled and later reached home plate together with Ayuyu on a Ben Cabrera double.

Cabrera also scored, with two outs, on a Dennis Cruz single. Ivan Igitol struck out to end the first inning.

The Tigers scored three runs each in the third and sixth innings, while the D9ers pitching had some brilliant moments when they held their opponents to one run apiece in the fourth and seventh.

Ben Duenas limited the hard-hitting D9ers to nine hits with no strikeouts and two walks. The D9ers still had a chance to come back but Duenas

See TIGERS on Page 42

Jr. Nationals, Suns complete Final Four

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CNMI Junior Nationals and Saipan Stevedore Suns completed the Final Four cast of the 2007-2008 season of the BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Island-wide Basketball League

The Junior Nationals and Suns knocked out D-1 Ulloa's and Bombers, respectively, Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to arrange a semifinal showdown on Jan. 28.

The other half of the Final Four will pit the second ranked Rock Steady against the Southern

See JR. NATIONALS on Page 42

JON PEREZ

Edsel Mendoza of the Saipan Stevedore Suns drives to the hoop against Bombers' Spencer Johnson Wednesday night during their playoff match in the 2007 BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hensley sheds 'league bowler' tag

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Overshadowed by other illustrious bowlers on the island, 2007 King of the Lanes champion Jon Hensley is glad the monkey is finally off his back as he looks forward to winning more titles this year.

Hensley overcame all odds to win the King of the Lanes finals last Jan. 13 at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan to return in the bowling spotlight. "I feel very fortunate to have overcome all the odds in my way, practically coming out of nowhere to beat the field of Saipan's best bowlers."

He finished outside the Top 12 bowlers based on the Bowler Ranking System and had to bring out his best form in order to qualify for the stepladder finals.

He then faced 2006 champion and fourth seed Raymond Angeles in the

See HENSLEY on Page 42

JON PEREZ

Jon Hensley, right, receives his cash prize from Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan after winning the 2007 King of the Lanes finals during the awards ceremony last Jan. 13 at Club V at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Inspirational triathlete to join pros in Saipan Sportsfest

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Pacific Development Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura said inspirational triathlete Shoki Sakano and father Kensho will be joining professionals that will be competing in the weeklong Saipan Sportsfest in March.

Although the Sakanos will not join the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship, Shoki and his father will be at the starting line of the 19th Tagaman Triathlon in the early morning of March 15 at the Pacific Islands Club.

The Anan City, Japan native from the Tokushima Prefecture was born with down syndrome but has developed a liking for triathlon. The Sakanos have been competing in the CNMI since 2003.

Aside from competing in the Tagaman, the Sakanos also joined triathlons in Tinian and Rota. Shoki's first CNMI race was the TagaKids in 2003 where he failed to finish due to a bad crash on his bike.

The following year, Shoki competed again in the TagaKids and finished the course in 53 minutes and 27 seconds.

He completed his first Olympic-distance (1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run) race in the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon in 2005 finishing with a time of 4:25:30 in February 2005.

A couple of years ago, Shoki chose to challenge the full Tagaman course

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Shoki Sakano poses with his certificate of completion after joining the Tinian Triathlon a couple of years ago.